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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Asiatic Turkey.

No. 1.

Vice-Consul Devey to Mr. Fitzmaurice.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, January* 7, 1893.)

(No. 32.)

Van, November 21, 1892.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 29, I have the honour to inform you that ten or twelve of the prisoners therein mentioned have been discharged, and that two zaptiehs were turned out of the gendarmerie force for the improper conduct referred to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 2.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 4.)

Constantinople, January 5, 1893.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 346 of the 14th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo respecting the case of the imprisoned Bishop of Hadjin.

I have instructed Sir A. Sandison to bring the contents of Mr. Jago's despatch to the knowledge of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Consul Jago to Sir Clare Ford.

Aleppo, December 3, 1892.

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's despatch, dated the 14th November, inclosing copy of a reply received from the Vali of Aleppo on the subject of the Bishop of Hadjin, whose Petition was forwarded to you by Mr. Acting Consul Catoni on the 6th October last, I have the honour to report that from inquiries I have made it would appear that the reply of the Aleppo authorities, although exaggerated, is substantially correct.

The offence of the Bishop was in baptizing and receiving a Moslem woman, who had become a Christian, without notifying the authorities, and afterwards assenting to her marriage with an Armenian. The Armenian priest who performed the marriage ceremony is still in prison at Adana, while the Armenian husband has been exiled to Tripoli of Barbary.

These facts are said, by the Armenians, to have occurred five years ago. As the Bishop was never tried by any Tribunal, the offence for which he was detained in prison, first in Adana and afterwards in Aleppo, and then exiled to Mubtich, was only

accurately known after his Petition had been sent and he himself had left Aleppo. It was commonly believed at the time to be one of the now frequent cases where Armenians are arrested and kept in prison on some supposed political charge until pecuniary influences bring about their release.

It will be my care to observe strictly the instructions which your Excellency is pleased to convey in your despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

No. 3.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 10, 1893.

WITH reference to Sir W. White's despatch No. 261 of the 25th June, 1891, respecting the dissensions between the Greek and Latin communities at Bethlehem, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, reporting on a rumour that a Latin Ecclesiastical Conference will be held at Jerusalem this year under the presidency of the Archbishop of Rheims.

Mr. Dickson fears that serious complications would ensue should this project be realized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Consul Dickson to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Jerusalem, December* 23, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have lately observed in a Paris newspaper, the "Autorité" of the 4th instant,—one of the journals of Paul de Cassagnac—that in April next the Pope intends to send to Jerusalem a Cardinal as Delegate to preside at a Conference of Latin clergy which will be held here. The Cardinal selected is the Archbishop of Rheims and a Frenchman.

The object of holding the Conference in question is not precisely known, but it is supposed that its aim will be to strengthen and confirm the position of the Latin Church in the East.

If the intention of His Holiness is carried out, there is little doubt that much excitement and jealousy will be caused among the other Christian sects who do not acknowledge his supremacy, and Mahommedan fanaticism would also be aroused.

The Greek Orthodox Church especially could not look upon such a solemn assembly as that referred to without feelings of envy; and religious prejudice and hatred may be carried to such an extent that Russia, whose desire has always been to place under her protection the followers of the Greek Orthodox Church in the East, might be led to interfere, and serious complications would ensue. The conflicts between the Greek Orthodox priests and the Latin monks in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, approaching sometimes to riots, are well known and almost of yearly occurrence, and are prevented from becoming really serious by the prompt and energetic interference of the local authorities.

Any disturbance, however, resulting from the meeting of an assembly as that above mentioned, presided over by a French Archbishop, who would enjoy the personal as well as the political protection of France, would necessarily involve interference other than that merely of the local authorities, and the consequences would be difficult to predict.

I am told that the nomination of the Delegate referred to has been discussed in some of the Italian papers as well as in the "Autorité," but I am unable to ascertain whether there is any real foundation for the report in circulation. I have, nevertheless, thought it proper to inform your Excellency of the circumstance.

I have the honour to add that a quarrel, though not of a serious nature so far, is at present going on in the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem between Greek and Latin monks, and arising out of the same dispute as that reported in my despatch,

Confidential, of the 15th June of last year, namely, which sect should have the right of entry into the Grotto by a certain door. The fact, however, that each party accuses the other of carrying fire-arms, to be used in case of need, gives the matter more importance than it might otherwise deserve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 4.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Devey, through Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on the proceedings of a band of nine Armenian brigands in the neighbourhood of Salakhaneh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.

Sir, *Van, December* 8, 1892.

THE report of the capture of four Armenian outlaws, mentioned in my despatch No. 34, proves erroneous.

The true facts are that a band of nine Armenian brigands fell upon a party of four Kurds who were going to fetch salt in the neighbourhood of Salakhaneh. The Kurds resisted the attempt to rob with the sword, but were worsted, and hastened for help to the village. A combat then ensued, in which a "Hamidiyyeh" captain was killed and one or two Kurds wounded. It is said that one Armenian was also killed, and three others of the brigands wounded, but they effected their escape, carrying the wounded with them. The brigands were armed with rifles, and doubtless the four Armenians named were among them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 5.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Devey, through Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting an unsuccessful attempt on the life of the Vali of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.

Sir, *Van, December* 8, 1892.

ABOUT ten days ago a kind of abortive attempt at assassination was made upon the person of the Vali, though the circumstance merits little attention.

An Armenian villager of Everek, distant 3 miles from the town, sought admission to the presence of his Excellency more than once on various trifling pretexts, but was unable to come face to face. Finally, as the Governor-General was returning from Government House to his residence in his carriage, escorted, as is

customary, by a few gendarmes and servants, the Armenian peasant pursued the cortège on horseback, and dashed up to the carriage once or twice, when the gendarmes seized him; he attempted resistance, and a revolver was found upon him. On interrogation, he declared he would speak the truth on a promise of pardon, and then stated that his brother and the village priest, with one or two others, had worked upon his feelings to induce him to commit this murder, or to attempt it, in the belief that the Armenian national cause would thereby be advanced. An inquiry is being made into the affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 6.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 19, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that I learn from the American Consul at Sivas, who is charged with the care of British interests, that a Petition, setting forth the wrongs of the Armenians, and addressed to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, was written in Hurun, and signed by some forty Armenians of that place. It was forwarded to Sivas, where it was discovered by the local authorities, who imprisoned the person in whose house it was found. A party of officers and police have been sent to Hurun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 7.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 20, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herein copy of a statement showing the principal points connected with the Kaulla Railway Concession which I have obtained from a confidential source.

The Concession was approved by the Council of Ministers on the 18th instant, and is now at the Palace awaiting the Imperial sanction.

Your Lordship will observe that M. Kaulla is to obtain a Concession to construct a railway from Eski-sheïr to Konieh; also a line from Adabazar to Heraclea on the Black Sea, thus tapping the rich coal-fields situated at the latter place.

Moreover, M. Kaulla is to have the right of constructing a line from Angora to Cesarea, and from thence to Sivas and Bagdad.

It would appear, however, that the construction of the Sivas-Bagdad line is drawn up in a facultative form rather than in that of a definite engagement. For, according to Article 37, that line will only be carried out after a preliminary survey of the road between Angora and Cesarea has been effected, and after terms have been come to with regard to the kilometric guarantee to be paid by the Turkish Government for the Angora-Cesarea section.

An evident contradiction occurs in the wording of the Concession, inasmuch as, according to Article 29, the kilometric guarantee for the Cesarea section has already been fixed at 17,650 fr. (706*l.*). Another reason for supposing that the construction of the Cesarea-Sivas section is only facultative is that M. Kaulla only engages to construct it after the gross receipts of the Haidar-Pasha-Angora section reaches, during a period of three consecutive years, an annual sum of 15,000 fr. (600*l.*) per kilom.; and M. Kaulla does not bind himself to carry out the Bagdad section until the gross receipts of the Angora-Cesarea section and the Eski-sheïr-Konieh section cover the kilometric guarantee, the former being fixed as above-mentioned at a sum of 17,650 fr., and the latter (Eski-sheïr-Konieh) at 13,650 fr. (546*l.*). Article 38 stipulates that a place called Biredjik on the Euphrates River, where the junction with a projected line from Damascus to Aleppo is arranged to be made, is to be what is termed in French the "zone d'alimentation" of the Kaulla line.

The latter arrangement strikes me as rather significative, and would almost look as if M. Kaulla had fallen in with the French scheme for a Syrian railway, concerning

which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my telegram No. 9 of the 18th instant. From the above your Lordship will perceive that the Kaulla Concessions embrace the better part of the whole railway development of Asia Minor, whilst the claims of the Smyrna-Aïdin line, which is essentially and wholly in British hands, and which has offered infinitely better and more advantageous terms to the Turkish Government for the extension of their line to Konieh, have been disregarded.

Further, no railway schemes can be entertained by English capitalists in view of the magnitude of the Kaulla Concessions in Asia Minor. Although I greatly doubt if M. Kaulla has either the intention or the means of carrying out his projects for many years to come, there can be no doubt that he has effectually succeeded in preventing any competition entering the field for the development of the railway system in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Principal Points of the recent Kaulla Railway Concession, as adopted by the Council of Ministers on January 18, 1893.

(Confidential.)

ARTICLE 1 grants the Concession for a railway from Angora to Cesarea, and the Concession for a railway from Eski-sheïr viâ Kutahia, Kara-Hissar, to Konieh.

Article 29 fixes the kilometric guarantee for the Cesarea section at 17,650 fr., and for Eski-sheïr-Konieh section at 13,750 fr.

By Article 32 the concessionnaire engages to prolong the line from Cesarea to Sivas, as soon as the Haidar-Pasha-Angora section gives during three consecutive years gross receipts amounting to 15,111 fr. per kilom. per annum.

And the concessionnaire engages to prolong the line from Sivas to Bagdad as soon as the gross receipts of the Angora-Cesarea and of the Eski-sheïr-Konieh sections cover the guarantee.

The Government can at any moment exact from the concessionnaire the construction of the Sivas and Bagdad extensions by providing the necessary kilometric guarantees.

Article 36 grants the Concession for a line from Adabazar to Heraclea.

By Article 37 it is laid down that the stipulations (Article 32) of this Convention regarding the construction of the Angora-Cesarea section, and concerning the prolongation of the line to Bagdad, will only enter into force after the necessary surveys have been made, and after an agreement is arrived at as to the kilometric guarantee for the Angora-Cesarea section. (There is an inexplicable contradiction here, as by Article 29 the kilometric guarantee is already settled. The contradiction is attributed to the haste with which the Concession was passed through the Council of Ministers.)

If no agreement can be arrived at on this point, the Government may apply to others for the construction of the Angora-Cesarea and Cesarea-Bagdad sections, and may grant in that case the construction of the lines in question if others offer more advantageous terms than M. Kaulla.

Article 38 stipulates that the "zone d'alimentation" of the Kaulla lines reaches to Biredjik, and that the junction of the line projected from Damascus with the Kaulla lines can take place at no other place than Biredjik.

(The Concession is for ninety-nine years, and is granted to M. Kaulla, of the Wurtembergischer Vereins Bank.)

No. 8.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Washington, January* 20, 1893.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 289 A of the 28th ultimo, in regard to the ill-treatment of the Christian inhabitants of Turkey, Mr. Foster told me a few days ago that he hoped that instructions would be sent to Her Majesty's

Ambassador at Constantinople in the sense of your Lordship's language to Mr. White, in order that Sir Clare Ford, should the emergency arise, might be able to co-operate with the United States' Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 9.

The Earl of Rosebery to the Marquis of Dufferin.

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1893.

I INCLOSE a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* relative to the reported holding in April next of a Latin Ecclesiastical Conference at Jerusalem under the presidency of the Archbishop of Rheims.

I shall be glad to learn whether your Excellency has any information regarding such a Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY

No. 10.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 23, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo reporting on the state of the vilayet.

Mr. Jago's observations respecting the pernicious result of the over-centralization of the Government, and the baneful influence of the Palace on the provinces, are, I fear, but too well justified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Consul Jago to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, January* 3, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival here to-day of Marshal Hadji Osman Nouri Pasha, from the Hedjaz, recently appointed Governor General of the Vilayet of Aleppo, in the place of Arif Pasha, who returns to Constantinople.

Arif Pasha, who has been Vali here since March 1890, is a man of 70 years of age, and was, before his appointment to Aleppo, Vali of Trebizond. His protectors at Constantinople are Marshal Dervish Pasha, and Redvan Pasha, his son-in-law, and Prefect of the city.

His administration has resulted in no benefit to the province. The state of anarchy and confusion which pervaded all branches of the public service previous to his arrival, instead of being checked, has now become normal and chronic, and even, if possible, increased by his practice of accepting bribes or presents for appointments to subordinate posts in the Provincial Government; and generally in making money out of his position. As Governor-General he was regarded as a nonentity, and his subordinates paid little heed to his instructions or remonstrances when called forth. Speaking generally, however, his rule has been a mild one; his inactivity and the comparatively small sums of money he extorted by reason of his position being regarded by a people already severely exercised in this respect by former officials of his rank as something to be condoned and thankful for.

The administration of justice leaves everything to be desired, and, as his Excellency himself remarked to me the other day, caused a blush that the corruption therein existing should be carried on under the guise and name of "Ottoman Tribunals."

* No. 3

Your Excellency may be aware that the Province of Aleppo, like, I presume, other provinces of Turkey, has now passed under direct Palace rule; the instructions of the various Ministries of the Porte, except in matters of mere routine, being held of no importance, and when, as often, clashing with Palace orders, remaining unheeded. Telegraphic instructions in the Sultan's name, emanating from the Palace, alone have power and weight with local officials; and appeals against injustice, despotic and arbitrary acts committed in His Majesty's name, remain unanswered. Persons arrested, accused, and tried by Imperial order languish in prison, although acquitted by the Provincial Courts, and in spite of innumerable appeals for mercy and pardon addressed to the Sultan and near relations of his family; the local authorities asserting their inability to release them for the reason that, being arrested and accused by Imperial order, an Imperial order can alone secure their enlargement. Indeed, acts are done in His Majesty's name which might presuppose the existence at the Palace of a power expressly created to render his name detested and his rule abhorred by his people. This latter, however, instinctively decline to admit of His Majesty's knowledge of existing abuses and their sufferings, and place them to the account of self-interested and corrupt advisers.

The scare of the Porte induced by the supposed machinations of local Armenian conspirators has resulted in repeated acts of imprisonment and subsequent spoliation for release by local officials who, taking their cue from the fears exhibited by the Porte, exploit the money-producing capacity of Armenians on the most flimsy pretexts. Arif Pasha, the late Vali, the Procurator-General, the Cadi, and Mektoubdgi, with subordinate judicial officials, have all combined to profit pecuniarily by this scare.

I find it difficult to convey to your Excellency an adequate idea of the state of the Government in this province. Few Government servants, from the lowest to the highest, perform an act for which they are employed and paid without a douceur depending in amount on their official rank. Obstacles and difficulties are placed in the way of the execution of the most elementary proceedings in Government Departments connected with the daily life of the people, and a bribe is alone efficacious in causing the employés to perform their duties. So far as British interests are concerned I have had little reason to complain of Arif Pasha, who has always shown himself ready to assist me when called upon. The principal difficulty was in getting his subordinates to obey him.

Osman Pasha, who now succeeds him, is a man of a totally different stamp. He is already known in Aleppo, where he was Vali for eight months in 1886, finally resigning through ill-health. He then, as now, came from the Hedjaz, whence he was removed for too energetically supporting the Sultan's rule and interests against the native Arabian element headed by the Grand Scheriff, who insisted upon his recall as the sole condition on which he would return to Mecca, whence he had withdrawn himself. I was Her Majesty's Consul at Jeddah at the time.

His short stay here in 1886 sufficed to stamp him as a man of great will and energy, whose word is law to all subordinates and Tribunals, as also of one over-eager to enrich himself at the expense of the people. His second advent is therefore looked upon with mingled feelings of dismay and gladness, according as the particular interests of officials and individuals of the public are concerned. Suffering severely from chronic rheumatism, it is not probable that his health will allow him to remain here long.

My reminiscences of Osman Pasha during four years in the Hedjaz are of a very friendly nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 11.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 26, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 26 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the text of the proposed Kaulla Railway Concession.

I have received the document from a reliable source, and have no reason to doubt its accuracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Proposed Kaulla Railway Concession.

LE Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman accorde la Concession de la construction de l'exploitation de deux lignes de chemin de fer qui s'étendront l'une d'Angora jusqu'à Césarée, l'autre d'Eski-Chéhir jusqu'à Konia en passant près de Kutahia et à Afioun Karahissar en suivant un tracé qui sera approuvé par le Gouvernement Impérial à la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie.

L'unification de la durée des Concessions de la ligne principale et des prolongements et embranchements, étant nécessaire, la durée de la présente Concession ainsi que celle du 22 Septembre, 1304; 4 Octobre, 1888, est fixée à 99 ans à partir de la date du Firman de la présente Convention.

Ces deux lignes prises dans leur ensemble sont partagées en sections de 200 kilom. de longueur pour ce qui concerne la présentation des plans et projets.

Le concessionnaire devra, dans un délai de huit mois à partir de la date de la remise du Firman de Concession et l'échange de la présente Convention et du Cahier des Charges et après l'accomplissement des stipulations, présenter au Ministère des Travaux Publics les plans et projets complets, des 200 premiers kilomètres. Dans les quatre mois suivants, il présentera les projets de 200 autres kilomètres et ainsi de suite jusqu'à présentation complète pour la totalité des deux lignes Angora-Césarée et Eski-Chéhir-Koniah.

Si le Gouvernement Impérial apporte à ces projets des modifications de nature à entraîner des retards de plus d'un mois, dans l'approbation des plans, le délai fixé pour la construction sera prolongé d'une période égale à celle du retard causé par l'examen de ces modifications et l'approbation des plans.

Le concessionnaire s'engage à commencer à ses frais, risques et périls, les travaux dans un délai de trois mois à partir de la date de l'approbation des plans des 200 premiers kilomètres, à les terminer dans un délai de huit ans.

Le Gouvernement fera procéder à l'expropriation et à la remise au concessionnaire des terrains nécessaires à l'établissement de la voie et de ses dépendances, après que le tracé du chemin de fer aura été apprové et appliqué sur le terrain. Cette remise sera faite par le Gouvernement dans le délai de deux mois.

Le matériel de la voie et les matériaux, fers, bois, houilles, machines, voitures et wagons et autres nécessaires au premier établissement, ainsi qu'aux agrandissements et augmentations en général du chemin de fer et de ses dépendances, que le concessionnaire achètera dans l'Empire ou qu'il fera venir de l'étranger, seront exempts de tous impôts intérieurs et de tous droits de douane. La franchise des droits de douane est aussi accordée pour la houille nécessaire à l'exploitation et que le concessionnaire fera venir de l'étranger autant que les recettes brutes des lignes concédées au chemin de fer Ottoman d'Anatolie ne suffiraient pas pour couvrir le montant des garanties.

La construction des nouvelles lignes exigeant l'émission de nouvelles obligations, les garanties affectées par la concessionnaire aux diverses obligations sont déterminées de la manière suivante:—

1. Les recettes nettes de la ligne Haïdar-Pacha-Angora, constituant un gage de premier rang pour les obligations déjà émises pour un capital de 80,000,000 de francs.

2. Les recettes nettes des lignes Angora-Césarée et Eski-Chéhir-Koniah constituant un gage de premier rang pour les obligations à émettre pour la construction de ces deux lignes.

3. Les recettes nettes de la ligne Haïdar-Pacha-Angora constituant un gage de second rang pour les obligations à émettre pour la construction de ces nouvelles lignes.

Il est entendu que la part revenant au Gouvernement en conformité de l'Article 39 demeure intacte et ne rentre pas dans les gages ci-dessus.

Article 29. Le Gouvernement Impérial garantit au concessionnaire un revenu brut annuel par kilomètre construit et exploité:—

(*a.*) De 18,000 fr. pour la ligne d'Angora à Césarée.

(*b.*) De 14,000 fr. pour la d'Eski-Chéhir à Koniah.

En ce qui concerne cette dernière ligne, il demeure entendu que la garantie de 14,000 fr. s'applique de façon à ce que le Gouvernement Impérial ne pourra jamais être appelé à payer une somme supérieure à 5,000 fr. par kilomètre et par an quelle que soit l'infériorité de recettes brutes au chiffre de 14,000 fr. fixé pour la garantie kilométrique annuelle.

Toutes les dîmes affectées aux lignes de Haïdar-Pacha-Angora, d'Angora à Césarée et d'Eski-Chéhir à Koniah, ainsi que celles pouvant éventuellement être affectées à d'autres prolongements et embranchements, formèrent un tour destiné à assurer le service

régulier des différentes garanties accordées ou à accorder dans l'avenir à la Compagnie du Chemin de Fer d'Anatolie au terme de l'Article 32.

Article 31. Comme imprimé de la Convention Salonique-Monastir.

Articles Supplémentaires.

Article 32. Le concessionnaire prend l'engagement, aussitôt que les lignes de Haïdar-Pacha-Angora et d'Eski-Chéhir à Koniah, arriveront par leurs recettes brutes à ne plus réclamer de garantie, de prolonger la ligne de Césarée jusqu'a Sivas, après entente préalable avec le Gouvernement. Il s'engage également à prolonger la ligne de Sivas jusqu'à Diarbékir et Bagdad, après entente préalable avec le Gouvernement dès que les lignes Haïdar-Pacha-Angora, Césarée et d'Eski-Chéhir à Koniah, arriveront, par leurs recettes brutes, à ne plus réclamer de garantie. Les chiffres de garantie à accorder à ces derniers prolongements seront fixées d'un commun accord.

Article 33. Le Gouvernement Impérial contribuera aux frais de construction des lignes d'Angora à Césarée et d'Eski-Chéhir à Koniah, pour une somme fixée de £T. 300,000; il contribuera en outre pour une somme annuelle de £T. 200,000 payable par la Banque Agricole, à la construction de tous les prolongements ou embranchements en général.

Les sommes porteront un intérêt annuel de 5 pour cent jusqu'à l'expiration de la Concession.

Article 34. L'accord prévu à l'Article 29 pour la désignation des dîmes à affecter aux garanties kilométriques, ainsi que la déclaration de l'Administration de la Dette Publique, confirmant l'acceptation en ce qui concerne des stipulations du susdit Article 29 et de l'Article 31, à remettre par écrit au concessionnaire devra se faire dans un délai d'un mois, au plus tard à partir de la date de l'échange de la présente Convention.

Si ces deux formalités ne sont accomplies dans le dit délai d'un mois, le concessionnaire est autorisé à se considérer comme délié des engagements que comporte pour lui la présente Convention.

Article 35. Aussitôt que les revenus bruts moyens de la ligne complète d'Eski-Chéhir à Koniah dépasseront la somme de 14,000 fr. par kilomètre, le concessionnaire s'engage à payer au Gouvernement Impérial les 25 pour cent de l'excédent au delà de cette somme de 14,000 fr. Il versera de même au Gouvernement Impérial les 25 pour cent de l'excédent au delà des revenues bruts moyens de 18,000 fr. pour la ligne complète d'Angora-Césarée.

Le concessionnaire s'engage, dans un délai de six mois, à partir de la date où le Gouvernement en aura exprimé le désir, de faire les études préliminaires d'une ligne qui s'étendra d'Adabazar jusqu'à Heraclée, en passant près de Hendek et près d'Uskub ou de Verindjé. Les stipulations de la présente Convention concernant tant la construction de la ligne Angora-Césarée que le prolongement de cette ligne à Bagdad n'entreront en vigueur qu'après les études nécessaires entre Angora et Césarée auront été faites et qu'on aura fixé d'un commun accord, le montant de la garantie qui sera accordée par le Gouvernement Impérial pour la ligne d'Angora-Césarée. Si une entente ne s'établit pas entre le Gouvernement Impérial et le concessionnaire pour la détermination du chiffre de la dite garantie, le Gouvernement Impérial aura la faculté, pour le chemin de fer, qu'il fera construire entre Angora et Césarée et de là à Bagdad de s'adresser à tout autre solliciteur qui ferait des conditions avantageuses et qui serait agréé par le Gouvernement Impérial et le concessionnaire ne fera aucune réclamation d'indemnité de ce chef.

La zone d'alimentation des lignes de la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie s'étendant jusqu'à Beredjik, la jonction éventuelle des lignes du chemin de fer Ottoman d'Anatolie avec un chemin de fer projeté de Damas à Beredjik ne devra se faire ailleurs qu'à cette dernière ville.

No. 12.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February* 4.)

(No. 31. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 28, 1893.

IT may be of convenience to your Lordship if I explained as concisely as possible the various railway projects which are now before the Ottoman Government and if I indicated briefly the stage which negotiations have reached in each case.

1. *The Kaulla Lines.*—These are to run from Angora to Kaisarieh, and from Angora to Konieh, with eventual extensions from Kaisarieh to Sivas, and possibly hereafter to Bagdad. These Concessions have passed the Council of Ministers, who have recommended the Sultan to issue the Imperial Iradé definitely sanctioning them. The Iradé is daily expected, but His Majesty apparently is still desirous of further considering the matter, and is interposing considerable delay.

2. *Smyrna-Cassaba Line.*—This line is anxious to extend eastwards and join the Angora-Konieh line at Karahissar. It is reported that the Company were desirous of a further prolongation, but as this would have brought them into the Kaulla territory they had to content themselves with the junction at Karahissar. I am informed that the Ottoman Government were persuaded to request the Anatolian Railway Company to make no objection to the junction at Karahissar, and that the latter assented to the proposal. The Concession for the prolongation is also before His Majesty, and will probably be granted simultaneously with the issue of the Iradé for M. Kaulla.

3. *The Smyrna-Aïdin.*—This Company demands, I believe, to prolong to Konieh, but as this ground is occupied by M. Kaulla, and will not be ceded by that gentlemen, the Company will probably have to content itself with a junction with the Angora-Konieh line. An English gentleman who is on the Kaulla Board here, and who is long resident at Constantinople, and well acquainted with several of the Directors of the Aïdin Railway Company, has informed me privately that the utmost the Kaulla Board are prepared to agree to is a junction at Karahissar, and not at Tchai, as was originally suggested. The Kaulla Board would be ready, if approached by the Ottoman Government in the same way as was done in the case of the Cassaba Company, to agree to the junction of the Aïdin line at Karahissar. They consider that Tchai would tap their line too near to Konieh. They admit the disadvantage of two lines converging on the Konieh line at the same place, but are willing to accept it in order that a settlement of conflicting claims may be arrived at. These proposals have been transmitted to the Aïdin Railway Company by the English gentleman above mentioned, who has undertaken the office of intermediary in the absence at Smyrna of Mr. Purser, the Agent of the Aïdin Company.

4. *The Panderma-Alashéhir Line.*—This is a line to run from Panderma, on the Sea of Marmora, to join the Cassaba line. The Concession had formerly been granted to M. Nagelmachel, but he being unable to fulfil the conditions, the Concession lapsed, and the caution-money was forfeited. It is considered extremely doubtful if the Sultan will be disposed to renew the grant of it to M. Nagelmachel, as His Majesty considers that should it be accorded the strategical value of the Dardanelles would completely disappear. This line is being advocated by the French Embassy.

5. *The Samsoon-Sivas Line, with possible prolongation southwards.*—This line, advocated by a French Company, has, so far as I can see, been dropped for the moment, owing partly to the energetic opposition of M. Kaulla and his group.

6. *The Line from Damascus, through Homs and Aleppo to Biredjik.*—This is a line which is being most actively urged by the French Embassy. I am told that at first the French Embassy desired that the name of the concessionnaire should be left blank, but finding this suggestion inadmissible, they have, after one or two unsuccessful applications in several quarters, succeeded in inducing a French resident here, M. Caporal, to have his name inserted. The Sultan, I am informed, is not well disposed to this line, as, should it be granted, and a branch, as is most probable, run down from Aleppo to Alexandretta, the westernmost portion of Syria would, it has been pointed out to His Majesty, fall into French hands. Nevertheless, the persistence of the French Embassy may weary His Majesty into conceding their demands.

7. *Alexandretta-Aleppo-Biredjik-Bagdad Line.*—This line is being actively urged by Mr. Staniforth, who has sent in a formal demand to the Ottoman Government for its concession. I may here mention that I have no knowledge of the names of the persons in England who are backing Mr. Staniforth, but a report has reached me that he is agent of the "Trustees, Executors, and Securities Insurance Corporation" in London, but as Mr. Staniforth is very reserved on this subject, it is impossible to say whether my information is correct. Mr. Staniforth considers that his scheme would not necessarily clash with any other projects, as he would not object to the French Syrian line running to Biredjik provided they do not ask for the Alexandretta branch. He considers that M. Kaulla's intention to proceed to Bagdad is not seriously meant, and that that gentleman and all other possible competitors would willingly cede to him the expensive and onerous task of constructing a line to that distant point. No information has at present reached this Embassy of the views which are taken at the Palace of this scheme.

Mersina-Tarsus-Adana Line.—This small and unremunerative line, which is in the hands of an English Company, has of late given some signs of also desiring a prolongation and permission to push eastwards into districts which may be tapped with profit. I do not know what steps the Company is taking with that object, or what hopes they have of success.

I think I have now mentioned all the projects before the Ottoman Government, and have avoided going into any details which might perhaps confuse a statement which I wished to make as brief and concise as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 13.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February* 4.)

(No. 33.) *Constantinople, January* 30, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Report which I have received from Mr. Consul Longworth on the state of the Vilayet of Trebizond during the year 1892.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Trebizond, January 10, 1893.

Sir,

IN connection with my Annual Reports for 1890 and 1891, I would beg here to review with a few remarks the general affairs of the vilayet during 1892.

Among the events of the past twelve months, the change of Valis has first to be noticed. Cadri Bey replaced Aali Bey early in May. The turn thus taken in the management of public affairs did not prove quite as satisfactory. A deviation was fully expected, but not to the same extent. It was brought about possibly by the strange contrast of their respective characters. The two men, indeed, formed apart rather interesting types of the old and new schools; of, in other words, the thoroughly Oriental and the almost European functionary. Aali Bey's administrative abilities were doubtless of a higher order. He displayed, with great promptitude and aptitude, firmness of will and quickness of perception, fluency of speech and courtesy of manners. Cadri Bey, on the other hand, is by nature hard working, bluff, and plodding, very genial, very generous, and very accessible, always anxious to do what is right, but easily misguided.

In matters of little importance he would often become the dupe of those around him, while in matters of some importance he would often fall back on Constantinople.

The consequences have been that questions on the whole were either distorted entirely, or suspended indefinitely.

And this I am afraid will have to be the general tenour of my Report. The Vali's line of procedure was soon taken up by almost all the Departments. It had the advantage of convenience to recommend it; for to do nothing discriminately, or to do something in a rash, if not in an arbitrary manner, seems much more to the taste of Ottoman officials.

Let me now give a few instances in illustration of these remarks.

With a view to obviating emigration to America, an order was issued in June, prohibiting Armenians from taking passage to Constantinople by any other line of steamers than the Turkish. On the 6th of the same month some Armenians of Kharput were caught embarking on board the Austrian. They were arrested, and so was an Armenian of Trebizond, who had bribed a police officer to *viser* their passports. He was released in ten days' time with the chastisement of eighteen stripes on the soles of his feet. The bastinado, though strictly forbidden, was resorted to with all impunity.

Then, again, in October, an Armenian, caught with a little contraband tobacco, was unmercifully beaten at the police station by Faïd Bey, Chief Guard of the Régie and a protégé of the Vali's. The matter was one that the Armenian Bishop took up strongly; but Faïd Bey, though condemned to three months' imprisonment, was released before the expiration of the term.

Without giving any more examples, it may be remarked here that the Ottoman Penal Code provides the punishment of from three to fifteen years' incarceration for acts of violence and cruelty committed by public officers against private individuals.

Cadri Bey's integrity of character is unquestionable, but his efforts to suppress corruption among his subordinates are, to say the least, peculiar. The ex-Commissioner of Police conceived, in August, the idea of adding to his stipend by blackmailing innkeepers to the extent of 5 piastres per lodger. One of these landlords had the shrewdness of going to the Vali and asking him personally whether such an order had really been issued. Though Cadri Bey answered in the affirmative, he marked a Turkish pound, which was the amount claimed, and presenting it to the man, told him to pay it up at once. The coin returned to his Excellency on his requesting the loan of a pound or two from the Commissioner of Police. The officer was thereupon made the unconscious bearer of his own condemnation to Constantinople.

He was dispatched with a letter to the Minister of the Interior, announcing therein his discharge for dishonesty. It was an ignominious fall which he fully deserved; but had it been done more publicly it would have locally produced perhaps a much greater impression.

Cholera, since June, absorbed almost the whole attention of the governing and the governed. The Executive displayed in this an appalling want of consistency and judgment. But sanitary affairs have been reported by me in former despatches. I will only add, therefore, that the Mayor of Trebizond was, in September, very justly relieved of his functions, for having insinuated openly that the Medical Officers of Health were poisoning off people stricken down by cholera.

In public security there is little to say out of the ordinary. The condition was quite a normal one, both as regards safety to life and safety to property. Hassan Bey, however, the new Mutessarif of Rizeh, should be mentioned here as having earned for himself, in July, considerable praise by the pursuit of brigands in person. He so far succeeded as to kill two, capture five, and force the surrender of three.

The want of rectitude in judicial affairs has not of late years been so perceptible. A gradual improvement has doubtless taken place in the administration of justice. But the Courts in 1892 were almost entirely closed from fear of cholera, especially after the outbreak of the disease in town. The epidemic, in fact, put to speedy flight law officers, solicitors, and plaintiffs, so much so that to this day litigants had their suits neglected, while suspects in gaol, to the number of eighty, had their trials deferred.

In respect to sedition and its suppression, it is satisfactory to note that innocent Armenians within this vilayet have not been harassed to the same degree. They had been having comparatively a quiet time of it; that is, a few domiciliary visits and a few temporary arrests, and these only in the earlier part of the year. Those in the interior do not seem to have fared so well. Some forty of them, including two priests and an Archdeacon, were, in April, brought down fettered from Moush, and secretly transported in small batches to Sinope, Constantinople, and other central prisons of the Empire.

Religion has as usual been the cause of contention and dissension. By a series of intrigues, some Greeks of Trebizond succeeded, in October, as on other occasions, to have their Archbishop recalled; but the Patriarchate has not as yet accorded them their wish of designating another prelate. As for sectarianism, it seems to have begot at Ordou nothing else than envy, hatred, and malice. The Protestant Armenians of the place were left in peace; but their Greek co-religionists, to the number of forty families, were made to suffer all the consequences of their meekness and weakness. The bigoted and uncharitable of the Orthodox faith stirred up against them the powers that be, to the effect that their school as well as church has been closed for months, pending instructions from Constantinople. Islamism, during the year, gained as converts seven men and six women. Such proselytes must abide in the new creed or quit the country, for to abjure the Moslem faith is dangerous. A man did so in spring. He was seized and soundly beaten, and was made to vanish in a manner completely wrapped up in mystery. To instance the exclusiveness of Mahommedan theology, the case of an Imam may be cited, who, for having dared in a sermon to pronounce the world round, was indefinitely suspended from officiating in public.

In conclusion, I beg to refer to the annexed Tables, and to mention the following recent despatches as containing particulars left unrepeated in this Report:—

1st and 10th February, 4th May, 30th July, 16th August, 14th September, 3rd October, 5th, 10th, 12th, and 17th November, 1st and 10th December, 1892; and 2nd January, 1893.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

THE Police and Gendarmerie of the Trebizond Vilayet.

Year.	Police.			Gendarmes.						
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Foot.	Horse.	Total.	Killed.	Wounded.	Rewarded.
1890..	5	29	34	49	936	190	1,175	3	3	74
1891..	6	19	24	49	796	190	1,035	..	3	35
1892..	6	26	32	49	930	190	1,270	2	3	18

RETURN of Prisoners at Trebizond on January 1, 1893.

Year.	Number in Gaol.			Number condemned to various Terms.				
	Moslems.	Christians.	Total.	1–5.	5–10.	10–15.	Life.	Total.
1890..	207	17	224	13	12	23	6	54
1891..	308	12	320	5	3	22	2	30
1892..	259	15	274	5	4	10	..	19

MURDERS committed in Trebizond District.

Year.	In Brigandage.	In Burglary.	In Vendetta.	In Debauchery.	Total.
1890	3	2	3	3	11
1891	2	..	..	3	5
1892	4	3	2	4	13

BRIGANDS extirpated in Trebizond District.

Year.	Killed.	Captured.	Total.
1890	15	94	109
1891	11	156	167
1892	19	122	141

No. 14.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.—(Received at the Foreign Office, February 4, 1893.)

(No. 34.)
Van, December 1, 1892.

Sir,

QUITE recently four Armenians, named Terlemezian Panos, Kankanian Ohannes, Haji Melkon, and Mohsi-Aslanian Bagdasar, were captured in the village Salakhaneh, some 50 miles east from Van, where they had had a combat with the Kurdish inhabitants, killing two and wounding two others. There is little doubt that these Armenians were the assassins of Nouri Effendi, referred to in my despatches Nos. 25 and 26.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 15.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 10, 1893.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 43 of the 1st instant, I have ascertained from a good source that the Congress to be held at Jerusalem in the course of the present year is what is known as a Eucharistic Congress, or meeting of pious persons with the object of extending the worship of the Holy Eucharist.

Similar Congresses have been already held at several European towns, viz., Paris, Avignon, Lille, Fribourg, Liège, Antwerp, and lastly at Naples in 1892.

The first President was Mgr. Mermillod, the well-known Archbishop of Geneva, and the intention appears to have originally been that the Congresses should be held exclusively in Europe; but it has now been decided to hold one at Jerusalem, under the presidency of the Cardinal Archbishop of Rheims.

I am informed that, apart from the desire of bearing testimony to the fact of the belief in the doctrine of the Holy Eucharist being preserved among the Eastern Churches, the intention of the promoters of the Congress is to encourage in the West the study of the Eastern liturgies and Greek "hymnology," and thus, if possible, to endeavour to remove the dissensions existing between the Roman and Greek Churches, and to bring about their union.

I inclose to your Lordship a pamphlet showing in detail the subjects which will engage the attention of the Jerusalem Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 16.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir C. Ford.

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1893.

TAKE no further step as regards railway Concessions without referring to me. Your communications in your despatches Nos. 41 and 42 of the 12th and 13th instant should close your action in these matters for the present.

No. 17.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir C. Ford.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1893.

DO what you properly can without compromising your position to remove obstacles which the Germans complain are being unnecessarily interposed by Mr. Caillard in the way of the Kaulla Concession.

No. 18.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, March* 3.)

Sir, *Trebizond, February* 8, 1893.

THE following is an extract of a despatch I have this day received from Mr. Spadano, our Consular Agent at Samsoon, reporting the distribution in the interior of a seditious print, and the consequent action of the authorities:—

"J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance certains faits qui se sont produits dans l'intérieur de l'Asie-Mineure le 19 Janvier dernier. Si je ne vous en ai pas entretenu plus tôt c'est que je tenais à avoir au préalable des renseignements aussi exacts que possible. Dans la nuit du 18 au 19 Janvier, des pamphlets séditieux rédigés et imprimés en Turc et visant la personne même de Sa Majesté le Sultan ont été placardés simultanément dans les principaux endroits publics des villes d'Amassia, Merzifoun, Tcheroum, Tokat, Yozkat, Angora, et Diarbékir. L'on prétend qu'il y

No. 15*.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 13, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 31 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to state that an Iradé has been issued granting the Concession for the Anatolian lines to M. Kaulla. There are, I believe, some formalities still to be accomplished, and therefore the Firman has not been actually issued yet. A Commission is sitting to settle the amount of the Government kilometric guarantee for the Angora-Kaisarieh section. M. Kaulla wishes to have 18,000 fr., or at least 17,500 fr., per kilom., and the Government offer 16,000 fr. Though these details remain to be arranged, the matter may be regarded as practically concluded. Work, in the first instance, will be commenced on the lines from Eski-shehir to Koniah, and from Angora to Kaisarieh. When these lines are finished M. Kaulla will gradually proceed, section by section, towards completing the great line to Bagdad, for the eventual construction of which he is bound by the terms of his Concession. I believe that M. Kaulla was unwilling to accept this responsibility, and was disposed to leave the lines further eastwards to any other competitors whom the Government might choose; but the Ottoman Government made his obligation in respect to the Bagdad line an imperative condition. I am told that several years will elapse before even the early sections of the work are completed; eight years, for instance, have been allowed for the section Angora-Kaisarieh. It is improbable, therefore, that the line will be proceeding eastwards from Diarbekir for twenty years or more.

I am also informed that the Iradé for the extension of the Smyrna-Cassaba line is daily expected, and the group who are seeking that Concession have modified very considerably their conditions, in the hope that thereby they will hasten the issue of the Imperial sanction.

The Smyrna-Aidin extension is *in statu quo*, as the reply of the Aidin Company in London to the proposals which were submitted to them have, so far as I am aware, not yet arrived here. The utmost this Company can now expect is also a junction with the Eski-shehir-Koniah line, though this will have the disadvantage of running parallel, from point of departure to point of junction, with the rival Cassaba line.

Mr. Stainforth's scheme of a line from Alexandretta to Biridjik and Bagdad is making little or no progress; and, indeed, now that the extensions to Bagdad are accorded to M. Kaulla, Mr. Stainforth will have, at the best, to content himself with a line to Biridjik, where he would join on to the trunk railroad.

The French Syrian lines are, I believe, also under discussion, but no information has reached me as to the position in which the negotiations are at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

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en a eu également à Sivas. Ces pamphlets ont été imprimés à Constantinople. Il y est dit en substance que Sa Majesté n'est pas à la hauteur de la situation, qu'elle n'est ni digne ni capable de régner et de gouverner, qu'elle est tout simplement un Hamid-Tchavush [*sic*] quelconque, et qu'elle doit descendre du trône et laisser la place à d'autres, &c. De pareilles idées exposées publiquement dans les villes de l'intérieur de l'Asie-Mineure où règne à l'état latent, chez les Arméniens, un esprit hostile au principe même qui les gouverne, ont eu un effet immédiat et facile à comprendre. Trois cents Arméniens ont été arrêtés en un jour dans la seule ville d'Amassia. On les a ensuite presque tous relâchés faute de preuves, mais il y en a actuellement une dizaine, d'autres prétendent trente, qui sont en prison soumis aux mauvais traitements.

"Des perquisitions ont amené la découverte dans la maison d'un jeune homme de 20 ans, de 20 kilog. de poudre. et de dix revolvers. Le receleur a été également incarcéré. A Samsoon il y a eu aussi des recherches faites aux domiciles de divers Arméniens, mais ces recherches n'ont amené aucun résultat. Les Arméniens de l'intérieur comme ceux de Samsoon, prétendent, affirment que cette manifestation hostile à la personne même de Sa Majesté le Sultan n'est pas leur œuvre; ils accusent les Softas expulsés de Constantinople il y a peu de temps d'en être les auteurs. Mes reinseignements ne vont pas jusqu'à pouvoir vous fixer à cet égard."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 19.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, March* 3.)

Trebizond, February 11, 1893.

Sir,

DR. JEWETT, the United States' Consul at Sivas, in his letter of the 21st ultimo, writes as follows respecting the seditious placards reported in my despatch No. 8 of the 8th instant:—

"As you doubtless may have heard, on or about the 1st January, inflammatory placards were posted in many cities and towns in this region. These placards were in Turkish and threatened the Imperial Government. Many persons were arrested on suspicion, but as far as I have been able to learn nothing in the way of reliable information has been obtained. At Marsovan the Protestant schools have been charged with the authorship of the disturbance, and they even charge that the placards were printed at the American College. Of course this is all bosh as far as the American missionaries are concerned. There is also a rumour that the trouble was instigated by Russia or England with an emphasis on the latter. Rumours are plentiful but certain knowledge is a rare commodity."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 20.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 60.) *Constantinople, February* 24, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit some notes which Colonel Chermside has drawn up in regard to the railway Concessions recently obtained by M. Kaulla and M. Nagelmacher respectively, and which may be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Memorandum by Colonel Chermside respecting Current Railway Concession Questions.

Line Eski-Shehr-Koniah.—Length of line 450 kilom. (280 miles).

The Government guarantees a receipt of 13,750 fr. per kilom., with the stipulation that should the sum earned by the line be less than 8,750 fr. per kilom., 5,000 fr. per kilom. is the maximum annual sum for which the Ottoman Government is liable.

According to the draft of the Concession the line is to be completed in eight years' but later I have heard it is to be completed in five years.

A Concession has also been granted for the line Angora-Kaisarieh, 410 kilom., the line to be completed within eight years. The kilometric guarantee for this line has not been definitely fixed, it is taken approximately at 17,550 fr. per kilom. The track of the line of which I expect to be able shortly to furnish some details follows the general line of the postroad, not that of the river valley.

There is very little doubt that the Deutsche Bank, which is behind M. Kaulla, is not anxious to construct this line, as to which it has given the present undertaking in order by humouring the Sultan's wish for extension towards Bagdad, to obtain the Eski-Shehr-Koniah Concession, which it estimates as likely to be remunerative.

In former reports I have described how, in accordance with the Sultan's wishes, the trace Angora-Sivas was studied and later was abandoned for Angora-Kaisarieh, and Kaisarieh-Sivas, how a railway reconnaissance survey was carried on to Bagdad and the objects for which this was done.

M. Kaulla and the Deutsche Bank have already engaged themselves to make a line in European Turkey which they only do under compulsion, viz., Monastir to the Adriatic at Durazzo or Avlona. The terms of the guarantee, however, namely, the same proportion to the cost of construction as the line Salonica-Monastir, render them unlikely to be called on to redeem their pledge (*vide* my despatch of the 27th March, 1892).

If, therefore, the Company wants to avoid making the Kaisarieh line it will have the same object in demanding or estimating a prohibitive guarantee and in raising difficulties as to security of guarantee and so on.

The Ottoman Government states 17,550 fr. to be unreasonably high; the Company answers that only 150 kilom. of the trace have been studied, while 250 kilom. still remain unstudied. A Commission has therefore been dispatched consisting of two engineers of the Company, two Turkish Staff officers, and one engineer on behalf of the Ottoman Government to examine the question of cost of construction and of fair guarantee.

The Concession states that the guarantees of revenue assigned are to be administered by the Public Debt Administration. This Administration affects not to have been consulted and is raising difficulties on the ground of the arrangement being disastrous to Turkish finances. The Ottoman Bank which works much in unison with it, is a supporter of Nagelmacher's and opposed to Kaulla and his backing. As explained in other Memoranda, the Deutsche Bank finds that investors attach relatively minor importance to the guarantee of the Turkish Government; and prefer to base their appreciation of the undertakings on the net earnings per kilom. Thus it is estimated on the Ismid-Angora line, that for it to be regarded as a satisfactory commercial basis, the kilometric earnings must be 11,000 fr. (to give 5 per cent.).

The guarantee is 15,000 fr. per kilom. Of the 80,000,000 fr. called-up capital invested, the Deutsche Bank has still 15,000,000 fr. in its own possession, which of course does not suit it for any length of time. The Company consider that the wide sterile volcanic tract to be found near Kaisarieh does not offer good prospects of development, and that the natural outlet is direct to the sea. There will be little export but cereals, and it is calculated that the transport over nearly 1,000 kilom. will make wheat by this route as dear at Constantinople as American wheat. The railway, it is asserted, will only gain from 3,000 to 4,000 fr. per kilom. as a maximum, and the large deficit to be made up by the Government will prevent the public subscribing. If an arrangement is not come to, the Firman will be null. How far this may be exaggeration it is hard to say.

The Eski-Shehr-Kutahia-Kara-Hissar-Koniah line 313 kilom. to Eski-Shehr, 450 kilom. to Koniah; total, 763 kilom., is looked on as a good line likely to pay.

The construction will be less costly, and the line may pay, but I think the normal appreciation of the lucrative traffic to be derived from the Central Asia Minor plateau much exaggerated. It will depend solely on cereals, and the population is sparse.

Sooner or later a junction with one or both Smyrna lines is inevitable. Both junctions are in the Turkish interests, commercial and strategical, and both will be adverse to the Kaulla Concession. The Turks might well try for a junction with the Kassaba line viâ Ushak at Kara-Hissar, and for one with the Aidin line at Tchai. They might give as a condition of the latter that the line was to be developped towards Koniah along the line Buldur-Isbarta; although the construction south of Egerdir Lake would prove difficult and costly, the line might eventually reach Koniah. The Kaulla Concession is reputed to add clauses unsought by the concessionnaire, but inserted at the Sultan's wish, saying that on the completion of the lines, prolongations to Birejek and along the line Sivas-Diarbekir will be considered, and if terms can be come to, the Company will have priority of right to their construction.

M. Nagelmacher, who left on the 20th, professes himself quite satisfied with his Concession, for which the Iradé is out. He has, however, as far as is known, only come to a definite arrangement with the Ottoman Government, and its execution must be contingent on his coming to a definite arrangement with Mr. Waterfield, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in London, which will be ratified by the shareholders of the Company.

M. Nagelmacher's Concession includes a lease of the Smyrna-Cassaba Railway and extensions, and a Concession for the extension Alashehr-Kara-Hissar. The extension Soma-Balikesri-Panderma is not, it is believed, included or only in part.

M. Nagelmacher, according to his agreement here, is to redeem the line for 38,500,000 fr. This line then becomes the unencumbered property of the Ottoman Government, and will be leased to him for 99 years, and he will receive annually, as equivalent for the capital sunk in redemption of the line, 2,310,000 fr. 50 per cent. of the gross receipts will go to the lessee, and 50 per cent. to the Ottoman Government.

This latter 50 per cent. is reassigned to the concessionnaire as security for the annual payment he is to receive of 2,310,000 fr.

I am not aware whether this applies only to the existing line or also to the extension, probably the former only.

The extension is to have an annual receipt of 18,900 fr. per kilom. guaranteed by the Ottoman Government.

I have not heard of the period allowed to construct the extension.

No. 21.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 64.)

Constantinople, February 20, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting the destruction by incendiaries of the American College at Marsovan.

I learn from another source that, on the 5th and 6th January last, in the week of prayer, during which all Protestants in the Empire hold daily meetings, placards were affixed to the principal buildings in every town and village of the Province of Sivas and the Yazgat Sandjak of the Province of Angora. These placards were in Turkish, and copied by means of a hectograph or cyclostyle.

One of the placards was an attack on the Sultan; the other was an exhortation to the Moslems of the Empire to rise against the Christians.

The Vali of Sivas laid the responsibility of these placards, somewhat illogically in my opinion, on the American College at Marsovan, where it appears a hectograph is used, and caused the Professors of the College to be arrested.

Kourchid Bey, a Circassian military officer and ex-brigand, was sent to Marsovan to investigate the circumstances of the case. He reported that the College was at the bottom of the sedition, and declared that he would turn the ground on which it stood into a ploughed field.

A few days afterwards a recently constructed wing of the building was burnt to the ground.

It is said that 2,000 Christians are in prison suspected of having posted the placards. A few Moslems have also been imprisoned, notably one from a village under Mount Argæus, in whose possessions several copies of the placards were found.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, February* 15, 1893.

THE following is an extract of a despatch, dated the 13th instant, from M. Spadaro at Samsoon, reporting the destruction by incendiarism of the American College at Marsovan :—

"Comme suite à ma lettre du 3 de ce mois, je porte à votre connaissance les renseignements suivants sur un fait nouveau ayant une certaine connexité avec ceux que vous connaissez déjà.

"Le Collège des Missionnaires Américains à Marsovan, construit tout dernièrement pour les filles, a été incendié le 2 Février. Cet incendie n'est pas accidentel. D'après mes renseignements, que je tiens de source certaine, le feu a été mis par le nommé Khosroff Bey, Sous-Chef de la Gendarmerie du Vilayet de Sivas, Alay Bey (ex-brigand), lequel aurait déclaré deux jours auparavant, au Dr. Melcom, attaché à ce collège, qu'il l'incendierait. C'est avec des caisses de pétrole placées aux quatre angles du bâtiment que ce méfait a été commis. Deux professeurs Arméniens de cet établissement, sujets Ottomans, nommés Tumayan et Cayaian, ont été ensuite emprisonnés.

"Je ne saurais vous dire d'une manière exacte à quels mobiles, à quel mot d'ordre a obéi l'auteur de cet attentat, craignant de vous donner des renseignements inexacts. L'enquête qui sera faite les découvrira certainement ; mon devoir est de vous mettre au courant de la situation bien que, peut-être, vous en soyez déjà informé par Mr. Jewett.

Le Vali de Sivas, d'après ce que j'ai su s'est rendu à Marsovan avec le Consul d'Amérique pour faire une enquête sur les faits dont je vous entretiens. Vous en connaîtrez certainement le résultat par Mr. Jewett, qui vous donnera des renseignements plus précis que les miens. Dans tous les cas je porterai à votre connaissance ceux que j'aurais recueillis.

"La police a voulu pénétrer dans l'établissement des Pères Jésuites de Marsovan mais ceux-ci ont répondu qu'ils en défendraient l'entrée tant qu'il n'y aurait pas une autorisation émanant de l'autorité Française."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 22.

Sir Clare Ford, No. 65, February 27, 1893.

Memorandum by Mr. Caillard explaining position of the Dette Publique towards the Kaulla Railway Concession.

[See "Correspondence respecting the Finances of Turkey, 1893," Inclosure in No. 5.]

No. 22*.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 14, 1893, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to the condition of affairs at Marsovan, where the American College was, a short time ago, partly burnt down, the Sultan informed me, on the 10th instant, that he had deputed two Aides-de-camp, who enjoyed his entire confidence, to go to the spot and carefully watch the investigations which were to be made.

The Grand Vizier, who confirmed this to me to-day, added further, that in connection with affairs in Cesarea, the discovery and arrest of persons implicated in distributing seditious papers should be the limit of the action of the local authorities.

Instructions had been sent his Highness continued, to the Vali of Angora, who is an ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, to visit Cesarea and Yuzgat, and send in a report on the condition of affairs there. His Highness also stated that the rumours at present current to the effect that the prisons are full of Armenians, are gross exaggerations.

No. 23.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 77. Confidential.) *Constantinople, March* 7, 1893.

My Lord,

MY despatch No. 64 of the 26th ultimo will have informed your Lordship of the destruction by fire of a portion of the American College at Marsovan, caused, there is little doubt, by the act of an incendiary.

The United States' Minister here has this morning communicated to me the despatches which he has received from his Consul at Sivas, whom he dispatched to the locality to inquire into the recent occurrences.

These documents, which Mr. Thompson kindly allowed me to read, show that since the appearance of the seditious placards great severity is being exercised against the Armenians, who are being imprisoned in great numbers throughout Asia Minor.

The despatches of the United States' Consul enter into full details as to the regrettable incident at Marsovan, and certainly show very strong presumptive proof that the instigator of the fire was Hosref Pasha, the Commandant of the Gendarmerie in the Sivas Vilayet.

This official, it is said, was formerly a brigand sentenced to a term of imprisonment for murder, but was released, apparently, on condition that he would extirpate brigandage in his former field of enterprise, which he succeeded to a great extent in effecting by measures of a very summary nature.

Mr. Thompson tells me that he is somewhat hampered in his representations to the Ottoman Government by the fact that the building which was destroyed, and which was intended, when finished, to serve as an additional boarding-house to the College, was registered in the name of an Ottoman subject—the Armenian physician of the American College. The property was in reality American, but the title-deeds were in the name of the above gentleman, and, therefore, the Sublime Porte are enabled to assert that the United States' Minister has, strictly speaking, no ground for complaint, as no American property has been injured. Mr. Thompson intends, nevertheless, to urge for a full inquiry into the incident, and he considers that Hosref Pasha should be dismissed from his present post, as his antecedents and his recent action (inasmuch as it is notorious that he had publicly expressed his intention of having the building destroyed) renders him a totally unfit person for any situation of trust and confidence.

Mr. Thompson has had great difficulty in entering into communication with his Consul, as telegrams were mutilated during transmission in such a manner as to render them unintelligible, and letters either miscarried entirely or were most unduly delayed.

Great difficulty is experienced also in collecting evidence showing the complicity of Hosref Pasha in the act of incendiarism, as terrorism is apparently so prevalent that witnesses dare not come forward.

I informed Mr. Thompson that under instructions from your Lordship, as conveyed in your Lordship's despatch No. 33 of the 15th February, I was perfectly ready to assist him in securing protection to English and American Christians who might be suffering harsh treatment and injustice at the hands of the authorities, and that when he desired my co-operation he had only to invite it.

I beg leave to inclose copies of despatches I have received from Mr. Consul Longworth, and Mr. Jewett, the United States' Consul, who is inquiring into the incident at Marsovan, and they will give your Lordship some idea of the condition of affairs in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Trebizond, February 21, 1893.

Sir,

DR. JEWETT, in his letter from Marsovan of the 14th instant, remarks as follows on the seditious placards and on the incendiary act lately reported by me, or rather through me :—

"I was sent for to come here immediately on account of the disturbances arising out of the posting of inflammatory placards in many places early in January. I arrived here the 12th February. The country is greatly agitated. Very many Armenians have been arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the placard business. At Marsovan the affair has taken the form of a hostile attack on the American College. I believe the true cause of all this disturbance is very different from the apparent cause. Repeated threats of destroying the College were made, and there seems to be ample proof that the threats were instigated and repeatedly made by Hosref Pasha, Chief of the Gendarmerie of the Vilayet, who was sent here to investigate matters, and was charged with protection of our citizens. This officer seems to me utterly unfit, both because of his past bad record and his present hatred of the College, to carry on such an investigation. He arrested two of the College Professors, and charged them with being the originators of the placards. I think there is no reason to suppose the charge true.

"Shortly after 1 o'clock on the night of the 2nd instant a college building in process of construction was burned, in accordance with threats above stated. There is no doubt that the fire was of incendiary origin. Other college buildings were close by, but fortunately did not catch fire. A company of about thirty zaptiehs was seen just outside the College walls while the building was on fire. Hosref Pasha himself was on the College grounds not more than fifteen minutes after the fire was discovered.

"Since the posting of the inflammatory placards there has existed at Marsovan a state closely resembling that of siege. People do not dare to open their shops. Trade is largely stopped. Houses are searched right and left. The streets are patrolled night and day by large numbers of police. Communication by letter and telegraph is largely prohibited. Persons leaving the city are searched for letters. Efforts are made by arrests and threatenings to manufacture evidence against the College and the teachers. All this is calculated to stir up excitement and lead to violence. There seems to me danger that, unless the officials cease to encourage animosity and violence towards Christians, serious consequences may be expected.

"At Amassia last week Mr. E. Weakly, an English subject, was arrested and taken to the police-station because he was out in the evening—I think about 4 o'clock Turkish. He carried a lantern. He was not detained long.

"In Sivas on the 5th February an Order was issued that no one should go out on the streets after 1 o'clock Turkish, with or without a lantern. I did not know of the Order until late at night. In the morning I learned that my cook and a dozen other Armenians were in prison for violating the Order. These things illustrate the condition of affairs. I hope the Minister will take immediate and decided action. I may be obliged to remain here several weeks."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Mr. Jewett to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Marsouan, February* 22, 1893.

I AM sending to the American Minister a pretty full statement in regard to affairs here, and I take the liberty of addressing you also on the same topics.

In that despatch I give evidence to show that the destruction of the American College was planned, plotted, threatened, and carried out under the direction of Hosref Pasha, Colonel of the Gendarmerie of the Vilayet of Sivas.

I wish particularly to call your attention to a point in this connection. I have quite conclusive proof that a few days before the burning of the College building Hosref Pasha distributed Government rifles to the Giorgian Mouhagins of this town, and that on the night of the fire about fifty Mouhagins, armed with guns, were stationed just outside the College wall at a place where the wall was low, and that they were seen to march along the wall towards the College gate during the fire. It is said that they boast of having been armed by the Pasha, and say that they were there to fire if any rising of the students took place, or if any insult was offered to the Pasha. The Pasha was on the College grounds a very few minutes, probably not more than ten, after the fire was discovered. This was about 1 o'clock after mi 'night.

I am credibly informed that on or about the 4th February the English and American Ambassadors asked the Turkish Government for suitable protection of Christians in this region. What protection has been given? The whole police force from Marsovan nearly to Cesarea is in the control of this notoriously bad man, an ex-brigand, once sentenced, for robbing and murder, to life imprisonment; a man who has arrested hundreds of Armenians on false charges, and has resorted to the most corrupt methods to incriminate; who has openly declared his determination to destroy American property, and has accomplished part of his threat.

The native Christians are becoming more and more alarmed. They say the Turks are constantly talking of killing them. Their complaints come to my ears until my heart is sick with the story of their wrongs. They see no apparent improvement in the condition of affairs, and they feel that if the foreign Powers are impotent to protect their own citizens from slander, threatening, and outrage, they can have little hope of protection or of justice. They see this man, who is quite universally believed to have threatened and accomplished the destruction of American property, still flourishing and carrying on his high-handed outrages. The situation is an unpleasant one for all Christians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MILO A. JEWETT, *United States' Consul, Charged with British Interests.*

No. 24.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 86.) *Constantinople, March* 13, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herein copy of a despatch which I have just received from the Minister of the United States of America here, giving an account of the most unsatisfactory state of the condition of affairs as regards the Armenian population at the town of Cesarea, in Asia Minor. I have no time before the departure of the messenger to-day to verify the accuracy of the account given in the American Minister's despatch, but I shall lose no time in doing so to-morrow, and in forwarding to your Lordship the result of my inquiries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Mr. Thompson to Sir Clare Ford.

United States' Legation, Constantinople, March 13, 1893.

Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to you, for your information, a statement of the condition of affairs in Cesarea and Yozgad in Asia Minor, which I have received from what I believe to be a reliable source.

From the reports I receive from United States' Consul Jewett from Marsovan, I am strengthened in my belief [*sic*] the statements made of the condition of the Christian population in that disturbed district of Turkey [*sic*] is terrible in the extreme.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance, &c.
(Signed) D. P. THOMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Memorandum.

From Cesarea.—The attitude of the Mahommedans toward all Christians has been almost of the nature of an uprising, which the Government has been trying to suppress, but with poor success.

Three Armenian churches have been pillaged by a Moslem mob in the City of Cesarea. The attack took place on the Sabbath, during Divine Service, and the women present were robbed of their necklaces and earrings.

Women have been attacked in several instances in the streets of the city by Mahommedans. They are now unable to venture outside of their homes.

Several men now in Constantinople have received news of the death of relations killed by the Moslems in the City of Cesarea.

The Moslems rob the caravans of goods for Christian merchants, so that several agents here have received orders to cease shipment of goods to that region.

Five hundred or more Armenians are in the Cesarea prison. Others are still coming in from the villages, and wooden barracks have been erected to receive them.

The shops of the City of Cesarea have been kept closed on account of lawlessness of the Moslems during four or five weeks. The people who live by day labour are suffering intensely, and the price of provisions had risen to famine rates.

From Yozgad.—The prisons are full of Armenians, and sixty or more of the richest Armenians of the place are imprisoned in the military barracks for lack of room in the prison.

One of these men, Hampartsum Effendi, was offered exemption from arrest on condition of a payment of 500*l*. He refused, and was arrested as a suspect. His friends in Constantinople, on hearing of this, secured the removal of Zia Pasha, who had made this offer and arrest. But Hampartsum Effendi is still in prison.

In this city there is not a single man in the Armenian or Protestant communities of any note for wealth or intelligence outside the prisons.

In Marsovan several leading men have been arrested, but they are not told what they are charged with, and they remain week after week in prison without a hearing.

It is again insisted that the placards which have formed the excuse for all this disturbance of the business and peace of the country are not the writing of Armenians, but of Moslems, and that they are directed against the Christians as much as against the Government.

No. 25.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 20, 1893, 9 A.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant, respecting the cases of the Archbishops of Maraclie and Zeitoun, I have the honour to state that the "Cour de Cassation" has not yet given its verdict, but I learn that it has decided to confirm the sentence pronounced against the Archbishops.

No. 26.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 20, 1893, 11·40 A.M.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that I am causing representations, in the sense of my despatch No. 186 of the 6th June last, to be made at the Porte to-day; I shall remind Saïd Pasha of the statement he made to me, and which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 364 of the 7th December.

No. 27.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 21, 1893, 11·55 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 51 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that I learn from Said Pasha that he cannot interfere with the decision given by the Court of Cassation.

The Archbishops' only chance, according to his Excellency, lies in appeal made to the Imperial clemency at an opportune moment.

No. 27 A.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches Nos. 77 and 86 of the 7th and 13th March, 1893.

The occurrences in Asia Minor in connection with the persecution of Christians make it necessary to speak strongly to the Porte on the subject.

Her Majesty's Government will have to institute an inquiry of their own, if prompt action be not taken by the Turkish Government.

No. 27 B.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 54. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 23, 1893, 3·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 32 of the 21st instant, I have obtained, confidentially, through a trustworthy person, the views on the present state of affairs in Asia Minor held by the Armenian Patriarch.

The messenger who leaves next Monday will bring a full report of the remarks His Beatitude made to my informant.

According to the Grand Vizier, the reports circulated so freely abroad of the ill-treatment of Armenians are very greatly exaggerated. The prisoners, of whom his Highness asserts that there are not more than 160, will all be tried at Angora before a regularly constituted Court.

His Highness will supply me with a full report of the events at Kaiserieh and other places, and of the course pursued by the Government; and until I have received it he hopes that I will suspend my judgment.

I would, however, suggest, in order to arrive at the real facts, that Colonel Chermside, who has great knowledge of the country and people, should proceed to the scene of the disturbances, and report on the true state of affairs. I should be glad to learn your Lordship's views on this proposal.

Said Pasha professes himself ready, in the interests of truth, to encourage such a mission; unfortunately he cannot act without previous consultation with the Grand Vizier.

I propose to speak strongly to Said Pasha respecting the present state of affairs in Asia Minor, and have intimated to him that I shall call on him for the purpose on the 5th instant.

No. 28.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 20, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Thompson, the American Minister here, has deputed Mr. Newberry, Secretary to the United States' Legation, to proceed at once to Marsovan, in order to institute an inquiry with regard to the burning of a building which was American property, and adjacent to the American Girls' College at that place. Mr. Newberry is also to use his best endeavours to

ascertain whether the posting on the walls there of certain seditious placards can in any way be attributed to American Agency.

I am indebted to the courtesy of the American Minister for the copy, which is herein inclosed, of the instructions which have been given to Mr. Newberry and to the American Vice-Consul at Marsovan for their guidance in the prosecution of the present inquiry. I shall not fail to keep your Lordship fully informed on what may transpire in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Mr. Thompson to Mr. Newberry.

United States' Legation, Constantinople, March 18, 1893.

Sir,

YOU are hereby instructed to proceed by the nearest route to Marsovan in Asia Minor, viâ Samsoon, to investigate only—

1. The facts leading up and subsequent to, and the cause of the destruction of, the new unfinished Girls' School building belonging to the Anatolian College of Marsovan.

2. As to the truth or falsity of certain reports as contained in a note to this Legation from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 14th March, 1893.

3. As to the truth or falsity of a charge made by the officers of the Anatolian College, that certain Turkish officials were directly or indirectly concerned in the destruction of said building by fire.

4. As to the truth or falsity of a charge made by the Turkish Government that arms and ammunition are stored in the College building in sufficient quantities as to be a menace to public safety.

5. You will also endeavour to ascertain the origin of certain revolutionary placards which were posted in and about the town of Marsovan on the night of the 5th January, 1893.

6. You will render your Report in writing, and in making the above investigations, so far as possible, act with Consul Jewett under the instructions sent him; but to consider yourself as superior in rank to the Consul, and at the conclusion of your investigations return at once to Constantinople.

The following arrangements have been made and agreed to between the Minister for Foreign Affairs and myself. You will have as assistant to you and acting under your orders Djemal Bey, an official of the Turkish Foreign Office.

The Governor of Samsoon has been instructed to furnish you every facility of baggage, including a proper military escort from Samsoon to Marsovan.

The Governor of Marsovan has been instructed to provide suitable quarters for you and your suite while in Marsovan, and to afford all the assistance in his power in conducting the investigation.

Trusting to your own good judgment in any matters not covered by these instructions, I have, &c.

(Signed) DAVID P. THOMPSON.

Instructions sent to Consul Jewett, March 14, 1893.

You will with the Public Prosecutor and such other persons as he may select (excluding Hosref Pasha and the police force), not to exceed five or six persons, make a search of the College buildings for evidence of the printing in the College of placards posted on the 5th January; also whether arms and ammunition are stored there.

You are to examine into the causes which led to the destruction of the College building by fire, the 3rd February, 1893. You have the right to examine and cross-examine witnesses as you wish, to establish the truth as to the burning of the building, and who the guilty parties are who caused its destruction. In case any of the teachers give testimony [?] they must be present.

You will report your proceedings daily to this Legation.

No. 29.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March 24, 1893.*

IF it is possible to send Chermside to Asia Minor without giving offence you should do so, as suggested in your telegram No. 54.

No. 30.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 31.)

E
(No. 105. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 26, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had an interview this morning, at his private residence, with Said Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and I called his Excellency's most serious attention to the unsatisfactory state of affairs existing at the present moment in that portion of the Turkish dominions in which the Armenian subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan partly reside. I informed his Excellency that the news which had been transmitted to England from those parts had occasioned an exceedingly bad impression, and had led to a belief that the Christian communities in Asia Minor were in many instances being treated with severity, injustice, and oppression.

I pointed out to his Excellency in strong terms the danger which the Turkish Government would incur were the reports which had been so widely circulated found to be true, and that consequently no time should be lost in the adoption of such stringent measures as would be calculated to put a stop at once to any further acts of oppression.

The painful impression caused in England had been so great that questions had been asked in Parliament on the subject, and I quoted the terms of the question which had been asked of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the 17th instant as illustrating the nature of the charges which had been brought against the Agents of the Turkish Government on the present unfortunate occasion.

Said Pasha replied that the accounts given in several of the English newspapers had been grossly exaggerated, and were in many respects entirely devoid of truth. No Armenian churches, he said, had been sacked, nor was the number of Armenian prisoners half so great as had been represented. His Excellency admitted, however, that owing to the distribution of placards of a seditious character very many arrests of Armenians suspected of having disseminated them had been effected. The Government, however, had acted promptly, and his Excellency informed me that he was already in possession of a Report which had been drawn up by the Vali of the Angora district, giving a full account of the disturbances. He would have, he said, a copy made from the Turkish original, and place it in my hands as soon as it was ready. I then stated to Said Pasha my earnest wish to obtain on my own account as accurate a version as possible of what had occurred of late, and a general statement of the present situation of affairs in those parts of Turkey where the Armenian communities principally reside. I was desirous, I said, of deputing a member of Her Majesty's Embassy to proceed to those parts in a purely officious character to collect information on the spot on which I could place implicit reliance, and I mentioned the name of Colonel Chermside, Military Attaché here, as a very fit and proper person to undertake such a task.

The Colonel, I added, was an officer of high official standing, was perfectly acquainted with the ground he would have to go over, and was a proficient in the Turkish language. Such a mission, I said, could not but prove beneficial, not only to Her Majesty's Government, who took so deep an interest in the welfare of the Christian subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, but to the Turkish Government likewise, whose wish could only be that of learning the truth from an impartial and independent source on so important a matter.

Said Pasha readily assented, and, indeed, encouraged the idea, but begged that before any steps were taken to carry out the proposal he should be allowed time to speak on the matter with his colleague the Grand Vizier, and he trusted that in the course of a day or two he would be in a position to give me a reply as to his Highness' views on the matter.

Said Pasha likewise stated that by that time he hoped to be able to give me the translation of the Vali of the Angora districts Report, which he had promised me, as well as translations of other Reports which he had received from different sources, which the Colonel might find of use as documents on which to base his inquiry.

Said Pasha then stated that there was one point on which he felt a little misgiving, and that was whether the object of Colonel Chermside's mission, which, he said, would of course become known, would not raise hopes in the Armenian communities that foreign aid was coming to their assistance, and thus determine them to persevere in the seditious movement which he declared was now on foot.

I replied that I could not for a moment suppose that the proposed mission would have any such effect. The mission, I repeated, would only be undertaken for the sole purpose of ascertaining the truth as to the late occurrences which had taken place, and thus correct the garbled and contradictory reports which had up to the present been so widely circulated. It would be a mission of inquiry and nothing more, and would in no way affect the settlement of the general question of the *status* of the Armenians, which was a question of far greater delicacy and import, and which, once taken thoroughly in hand by the Turkish Government, would have a far greater scope.

Whilst speaking on this subject, I reminded, privately, Said Pasha of the promise which the Sultan had graciously made me a few months ago, to the effect that he would send this very spring a properly constituted Commission to Asia Minor in order to report on the condition of His Majesty's subjects in that portion of his dominions, so that all abuses existing there might be redressed, and the general *status* of his subjects of whatsoever creed and nationality be ameliorated.

I expressed my hope to his Excellency that he might be able to seize an opportunity of recalling to the Sultan's mind the promise in question, and that steps would soon be taken to carry it into effect. My conversation with Said Pasha having turned on the distressing position which, I consider, is occupied by the Armenian subjects of His Imperial Majesty in this country (as evidenced by the numerous Consular Reports which speak on the subject), which, by the way, his Excellency was not inclined to admit, as he ascribed any ills they had to bear to their own fault by so persistently endeavouring, aided by emissaries established in foreign parts, to subvert the public order of things as established by law in this country, I cited the oppression to which the Armenians were so frequently exposed owing to the lawless acts of the Kurds who pillaged their villages and robbed their flocks without their being able to obtain redress, and I also cited the numerous cases in which murders and other offences had been committed by Turks on Armenians and in which the former had been let off scot free, whereas in cases in which Turks had been murdered by Armenians, numbers of unoffending persons had been thrown into prison, months having elapsed without their being brought to trial. I particularly instanced the case which occurred in the Narman district in the year 1891, when three Turks were murdered, which resulted in twenty-three Armenians being sentenced to death, and twenty-seven to penal servitude of various terms. This case was taken out of the ordinary Courts of Justice, and was handed over to be dealt with by a court-martial, thereby precluding the possibility of the sentence passed being referred to the High Court of Appeal at Constantinople. Moreover, during the progress of this particular case upwards of fifteen months elapsed during which period more than sixty Armenian villagers were imprisoned on suspicion of being concerned in the affair.

Now I pointed out to his Excellency how strongly this case contrasted with one which occurred in 1890, on which occasion three Armenians were murdered by a couple of Turks, who being captured, were subjected to a mere imprisonment of two months and then were let free.

In face of instances of this description, I asked, what opinion could one hold of the administration of justice as applied to the Armenian population?

I may conclude this despatch by stating that I am under the impression that the Turkish Government is fully alive to the gravity of the situation as regards the Armenians whose cause is taken up by the British public, but that on the other hand the Turkish Government will find itself under the necessity of taking all the means at its disposal for checking the further progress of a revolutionary movement which there are strong reasons to suspect does actually exist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 31.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 109.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 27, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum respecting the state of affairs in Armenia, as well as of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora, which was forwarded to me by Mr. Acting Consul-General Wrench, on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 11, 1893.

WITH reference to the Narman murder case reported by Mr. Hampson in his despatches of the 26th December, 1891, and the 16th January, 1892, and alluded to by Mr. Graves in his Confidential despatch of the 8th October, 1892, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that a decision has at length been given by the court-martial to which the matter was referred. The Court has sentenced twenty-three Armenians to death, and some twenty-seven to penal servitude of various terms. The unusual severity of the sentence is to be explained by an order from Constantinople to take the case out of the ordinary Courts of Justice and hand it over to a court-martial, and, by a certain display of severity, to intimidate the Armenians with a view to prevent the recurrence of such events.

During the fifteen months that the case has been going on, over sixty Armenian villagers have been imprisoned. Of this number eight have died, some from cholera, some from other diseases, and rumours are not wanting to the effect that the deaths of some may be attributed to the harsh treatment, as regards food and otherwise, to which they have been subjected in order to make them confess.

Unusual secrecy has been observed with regard to the proceedings, but I have ascertained from a reliable source, as well as from the published sentence, that the main reason for the condemnation is mere suspicion. In August 1890 three Armenians were found murdered in Potkor Forest in the Narman district on the Russian border. Two Turks were arrested for the murder, but released after two months' imprisonment. Towards the end of 1891, these two Turks with another were found murdered in the same forest, and the Government has suspected that the perpetrators of the latter crime, an act of revenge, are the friends of the previously murdered Armenians, but no positive proof exists against the condemned.

It seems highly improbable that the twenty-three condemned to death should all have been perpetrators of the murder of the three Turks, while, after the remarks of Mr. Consul Graves in his despatch of the 8th October, 1892, I need not point out to your Excellency the disparity of treatment in the Turkish and the Armenian case. Three Armenians are killed, and a couple of Turks are imprisoned for a couple of months. Sometime after, in the same district, three Turks are killed, and over sixty Armenians are flung into prison, where they are kept a long period on suspicion, while their lands are ruined from their absence, and finally twenty-three are condemned to the extreme penalty, and twenty-seven to penal servitude, and that in the absence of any positive proof against them.

I should not be surprised if the perpetrators of the crime were Russian-Armenians, the scene of the murder being close to the Russian frontier, and how far some Armenians of the Turkish Narman district were abettors of or accomplices in the murder is a question to be investigated, but to condemn twenty-three to death as perpetrators, on mere suspicion, is certainly Draconian, and cannot fail to have a very bad effect in discrediting the administration of justice in these parts, while giving grounds for complaints of bad government in Turkish Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 17, 1893.

IN my capacity as Italian Consular Agent, a case has recently come under my notice, which, owing to its general bearings, I think it my duty to report to your Excellency.

About the 13th February last, the local authorities at Erzinghian imprisoned there an Italian, named Joseph Goliti. He remained in prison for ten days without the Turkish authorities informing M. Goliti's Consulate of the arrest. On the tenth day he managed to telegraph to me, acquainting me with the facts. On my inquiring of the Erzeroum Vali the reasons for this arrest, I received on the 11th March, nearly a month after the day of imprisonment, a written reply couched in vague terms, and giving two or three frivolous reasons for the arrest of M. Goliti. At the same time his Excellency the Vali intimated verbally to my Dragoman, that the real reason was that M. Goliti was accused of being mixed up in the so-called Armenian question. His Excellency further stated verbally that he had orders from Constantinople, that where a foreign subject, of no matter what nationality, was suspected of complicity in Armenian "Committee work or the like," the local authorities were to arrest such foreign subject, without previous reference to his Consulate, and that the presence of the Consular Dragoman at the trial was not required.

Such action of the Turkish authorities would constitute a serious infringement of the rights of foreigners as guaranteed by Treaties, and could not fail to render insecure the position of foreigners dwelling in these parts. For the practice existing among Turkish officials of trumping up charges of sedition in connection with Armenian affairs against those for whom they entertain a grudge, or whose position they covet, will certainly be extended to foreigners, if the latter are deprived of the protection of their Consulates in judicial matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 31.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith inclosed duplicate copies of Mr. Devey's despatch No. 2 of the 8th March, reporting on the Nouri Effendi murder case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 31.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.

Sir, *Van, March* 8, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that the trial of eleven Armenians for the murder of Nouri Effendi (reported in my despatch No. 25 of October last) began on Saturday last. It will probably last some weeks.

Complaint was made by the accused of having been maltreated whilst in prison. The "Procureur-Général," in reply, produced a written statement of the warders and custodians categorically denying the fact, but the signatures were signed by those against whom the complaint is levied. During the last ten weeks such complaints have been much circulated in the town, and I regret to think that they cannot be entirely unfounded, though better hopes were expressed in my despatch of the 9th November, 1892.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 31.

Vice-Consul Newton to Acting Consul-General Wrench.

Sir, *Angora, March* 11, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the discontent prevalent among the Armenian subjects of His Majesty the Sultan in the Sivas Vilayet has now extended to this district; the seat of disturbance is at present confined to the towns of Yuzgat and Caesaura and neighbourhood.

A few days ago his Excellency the Governor, acting under orders from Constantinople, proceeded to the above-mentioned towns, and arrested some fifty or sixty Armenians.

These prisoners have just arrived at Angora, some of them in chains, and have been lodged in a newly-erected prison, the walls of which are not dry. This does not enhance the personal comfort of the prisoners; with this exception they are being treated fairly well.

Reports are being circulated that a considerable quantity of arms have been discovered in Armenian houses, but these rumours must be treated with caution; my information, which is somewhat trustworthy, does not lead me to believe these reports.

The local authorities are preserving the greatest possible secrecy, and no one is allowed to communicate with the prisoners.

The arrest of these men was effected quietly, and without any undue severity. Owing to the prompt action of the authorities, the movement had not assumed grave proportions.

The prisoners belong to the lower class, although some wealthy merchants are also implicated, who, I have every reason to believe, are the prime movers of the disturbance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. NEWTON.

No. 32.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April* 1, 1893, 2:30 P.M.

IT has come to my knowledge since the dispatch of my telegram No. 50, that there was some doubt at the Porte as to what the Court of Cassation really had done in the case of the Bishops of Zeitoun and Marash. I therefore made direct inquiries of the Court, and learn that the former has been condemned to imprisonment for life, while some other persons of that place, including a priest, are sentenced to death. This latter sentence will, I presume, be commuted.

Of the sentence on the Bishop of Marash nothing appears to be known.

No. 33.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April* 3, 1893, 6 P.M.

AFTER my interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 26th ultimo, the Sultan has graciously granted a general amnesty to the Armenians of Cesarea, Yuzgat, and Marsovan, who were suspected of complicity with the posting of seditious placards. Both the Grand Vizier and Said Pasha has given me assurances to this effect.

There will be a public trial before the Criminal Court of Angora, of such Armenians as are accused on strong evidence of having been the authors or instigators of the offence.

No. 34.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 92.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1893.

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me to-day a telegram which he had received from the Porte regarding the recent troubles at Marsovan and other places in Asia Minor.

The telegram stated that, seditious writings having been published by agitators in certain towns of Asia Minor, such as Marsovan, Tchurum, Yozgat, and Cæsarea, certain evil-disposed persons had attempted to give the affair the importance of a popular movement, and, in order to alienate the public opinion of Europe from the Turkish Government, had spread a report that three churches had been burnt at Cæsarea.

An investigation into the matter had shown that the report was without foundation. Of the persons arrested in connection with the seditious publications referred to, only five or six, proved to be the authors, were retained in custody; the remainder had been liberated on bail by the Sultan's clemency.

As the accused had to be handed over to the Angora Courts for public trial in accordance with the laws, the Imperial Government had taken no administrative measures with regard to them.

Those of the accused who were not proved to be guilty would of course be set at liberty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 35.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 92 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1893.

DURING the Turkish Ambassador's visit to-day, I alluded to the case of M. Thoumaian, who had once more been committed to prison.

In the course of a lengthy explanation, his Excellency said that M. Thoumaian was supposed to be a conspirator as well as a professor. With regard to the burning of the American College at Marsovan, the Governor of the province had declared that when the fire seized an adjacent building, the inhabitants of the college had refused to assist in extinguishing it, or to use the fire-engine for that purpose, in order to raise a question against the Turkish Government, and to call the attention of Europe to their case, as well as to exact disproportionate damages.

Rustem Pasha added that he had urged on the Palace the expediency of sending the long-promised Commission of Inquiry into the complaints of the Armenians.

I replied that such a step would be most desirable, and would put a stop to the agitation which was now increasing on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 36.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 31, 1893.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 70 of the 25th instant, in which was inclosed copy of a letter which, under your Lordship's directions, had been addressed to the Rev. Adolf Hoffmann, and also a letter, in original, addressed to me by Mdme. de Visme on the subject of the imprisonment of M. Thoumaian, of the American College at Marsovan, I have the honour to inclose herein to your Lordship a copy of the answer which I have returned to that lady's communication.

I have also the honour to inform your Lordship that I am indebted to the courtesy of my American colleague here for a document, copy of which is herein inclosed, which he has quite recently received from Dr. George F. Herrick, President

of the "Anatolian College" at Marsovan, in which a statement is given of the condition of affairs at that place, and of the imprisonment of two of the native teachers of the College, one being M. Thoumaian, and the other M. Kayayan.

These persons appear to have been imprisoned since the early part of February, and a report has been sent by the American Consul, Jewett, who is at present at Marsovan, to the effect that the two prisoners have been sent under guard to Angora (distance some ten or twelve days from Marsovan), with a large number of Armenians, some of whom are charged with seditious and treasonable designs against the Ottoman Government.

M. Thoumaian and M. Kayayan are not American citizens, but are and have been employed for years as teachers at the American College.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Sir Clare Ford to Mdme. de Visme.

Dear Madam, *Constantinople, March* 31, 1893.

THE letter dated the 22nd instant which you addressed me has reached my hands. You must apparently have inclosed it in a letter to the Rev. Adolf Hoffmann, who, on his part, must have sent it to the Foreign Office in London.

The letter speaks of M. Thoumaian, an Armenian professor of the American College of Marsovan, in whom you are interested, and who, it appears, has unfortunately been arrested owing to some political troubles which have recently taken place at Marsovan. You will readily understand that it is out of my power to make any direct representations to the Turkish Government in favour of a gentleman who is not of British nationality; but I trust at the same time that you need not be under any great apprehension as to the fate of the Professor, who will, I have no reason to doubt, meet with justice and receive a just and proper trial with regard to the charges of which he may find himself accused. I need hardly assure you that everything which affects the Christian population, subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, enlists my greatest sympathy, and that I shall watch with deep interest the progress of the trial of the persons who have lately been imprisoned on charges of being implicated in a seditious movement in Asia Minor.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Special Supplementary Memorandum by the Rev. G. Herrick on the Case of the Imprisoned Teachers of Anatolia College.

THE object of this paper is to make certain explanatory and supplementary statements concerning Professor Thoumaian and M. Kayayan in view of statements which reached my hands from Sivas after I left Marsovan.

It is better that I put down in substance what these statements are, and then make such remarks upon them as seem to me called for.

The letter making the statements in question is that of the Rev. Mr. Perry. He says that the Vali complained of me for defending Professor Thoumaian, whom he regards as guilty of sedition. Mr. Perry answered the Vali that I would no more defend a seditious man than he would. The Vali then called in three men from Gemerek, who were in prison, and talked with them in Mr. Perry's presence for three-quarters of an hour. These three men were: the Mudir of Gemerek, one Agop, and Mardivos Caloudian, who is the Protestant preacher of Gemerek, and a former pupil of my own. Only the statements of the latter would have any weight with me, and, unfortunately, the statements of the two are mixed up together, so just what was said by Mardivos is left uncertain. Mr. Perry adds, however, that the statements of Mardivos have been sworn to and sent to Constantinople.

According to the statements made in Mr. Perry's presence the two teachers, M. Thoumaian and M. Kayayan, in their visit to Gemerek and vicinity in the summer of 1891:—

"1. Aroused in the minds of those who listened to them the feeling, and persuaded them of the feasibility, of rebellion; exhorted them to provide every man his gun, &c.

"2. A man professing to represent the London Society came after MM. Thoumaian and Kayayan, and organized a branch of the Secret Society.

"3. Placards were sent from Marsovan with a letter and seal bearing a fictitious name, recognized as that of Professor Thoumaian.

"4. Professor Thoumaian was charged with mail robberies, &c."

Mr. Perry adds that these confessions were made after about a month of solitary confinement.

On this communication, which at first appears so disquieting, my first remark is that, in the count No. 4, at least, Professor Thoumaian is evidently confounded with another Marsovan man, named Harolim Thoumaian, who is disloyal and an outlaw, with whom Professor Thoumaian has precisely the sympathy that you or I have. To even charge robbery on Professor Thoumaian is simply monstrous, and vitiates the whole story.

2. MM. Thoumaian and Kayayan have themselves declared these letters referred to in count No. 3 as forgeries, a theory certainly quite as likely to be correct as the one given here.

3. The second count is distinct evidence that MM. Thoumaian and Kayayan were not the men concerned in organizing a Secret Society in Gemerek.

Really the first count is the only serious one; and on this one I remark: (*a*) if it be true that Professor Thoumaian or M. Kayayan sowed sedition in Gemerek or elsewhere, it can be proved against them by testimony which will bear a searching cross-examination, then let them suffer for it; (*b*) the declaration that those teachers sowed sedition during their tour is a very indefinite charge. I have often heard men, Turks quite as much as Christians, irritated by the superabundant evidence of venality, rapacity, and weak indifference, or perhaps of startling evidence of complicity with robbery on the part of officers of the Government, speak of Government maladministration in terms which might easily be termed disloyal; (*c*) I strongly suspect the absolute genuineness of the Gemerek preacher's declaration. One should know the history of that month of solitary confinement. Was torture used? Was the paper which he signed just what he declared? Was it, in any way, his own free act? If he had been forced into a confession, he must stick to it before the Vali.

The responsible managers of the college at Marsovan have always and everywhere, by precept and example, in teaching, in public and in private, by official notice posted in their college, and in every way possible, held themselves and the college, its teachers and pupils and employés, to unqualified loyalty to the Turkish Government, and frowned on all countenance, direct or indirect, given to anything which could even savour of sedition.

Professor Thoumaian and M. Kayayan each declared to me, in the most solemn manner, long before these recent events occurred, that he was not, and never had been, and never intended to be, an officer or a member or in any way connected with a Secret Society, or any seditious movement; that he always advised against such a movement in any form; and that only in loyal and lawful ways did he work for the welfare of his people. Each told me of pressure to get him into such a movement, which he had steadfastly repelled. I assured these men that if at any time I should know of evidence which would convict them of complicity with sedition in any degree their relation with the college must cease from that very hour. I have never had reason to doubt their fidelity to the promises which they made to me. I believe them to be the victims of base men, and it seems to me that it would be base in us to desert members of our College Faculty before charges against them are proven.

In the interests of truth and justice I venture to make the following suggestions. If the Government insists on putting the teachers, with the other prisoners, some 800 Armenian Christians in all, as it is reported, on their trial, then let them all be taken on to Angora, and let Representatives of the United States, the British, and the German Governments be there to see that the trial be absolutely fair; and then let the guilty suffer, whether the guilty be the prisoners or those who have accused them.

(Signed) GEORGE F. HERRICK.

Constantinople, March 28, 1893.

No. 37.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 124. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 7, 1893.*

I AM informed very confidentially that the Sultan sent for Artin Pasha, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the evening of the 5th instant, and had a long conversation with his Excellency on the Armenian question. His Majesty accused the Armenian Notables in Constantinople, and particularly the Armenian officials, of fomenting troubles, and, in concert with the Armenian Committees abroad, thereby provoking questions in the British Parliament.

Artin Pasha replied that, looking at the conditions of the case, it was materially impossible that the Christian population of the capital could be culpable or made responsible. His Excellency impressed on His Majesty that the only remedy was to be found in the original intention of His Majesty to send a Commission to Asia, composed of a Mussulman and of a Christian dignitary, who would loyally report on the situation, and organize the necessary reforms.

His Majesty replied that he had not the slightest intention of sending any such Commission, as the only result would be to embitter the question, and to encourage foreign Governments to intervene in the matter.

His Majesty added that he intended to govern his own country himself, and if terrible complications were to ensue, even a general massacre, he would not tolerate the interference of any one. His Majesty, therefore, instructed Artin Pasha to inform the Armenian Notables at Constantinople, that he would hold them responsible, and that they were not to mix themselves up in anything on pain of incurring the grave displeasure of their Sovereign.

Artin Pasha respectfully pointed out the consequence which might ensue if acts of fanaticism led to reprisals, and he terminated his audience by imploring the Imperial clemency for His Majesty's Christian subjects,

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 38.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 7, 1893.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 54 of the 23rd ultimo, stating that the Grand Vizier would furnish me with a Report of what was going on at Cesarea, Angora, and other places, and of the course pursued by the Government with respect to the Armenian prisoners who had been taken up on a charge of complicity in the late seditious movement which has occurred in Asia Minor, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of the Turkish text of the document in question, together with a short Memorandum which has been drawn up for me by Sir Arthur Nicolson, giving the principal points in the paper.

I may mention that in the course of a few days Mr. Newberry, Secretary to the United States' Legation, is expected here on his return from Marsovan, where he went to institute an inquiry into the circumstances of the burning of the American College at that place.

I have no doubt that he will supply me with a copy of his Report which I shall, in due course, forward to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Mémorandum communicated by Sublime Porte.

Préface.

DEPUIS quelque temps, ainsi qu'il est notoire, certains aventuriers par le moyen de certaines publications nouvelles, livres et brochures, qu'ils préparent en pays étranger, osent faire circuler des calomnies et de faussetés contre le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, et, en employant différentes ruses pour tromper des hommes naïfs dans l'intérieur de l'État, et semer la mésintelligence dans les localités habitées par des Arméniens, entre ces derniers et les Musulmans, troublant la tranquillité publique, et se livrant à des manifestations dans l'intention de soulever une question Arménienne qui n'existe point. Comme conséquence de cette tactique tout dernièrement ils ont voulu encore troubler la tranquillité publique en fabriquant et en attachant des placards à Merzifon, Yuzgat, et Césarée, ainsi qu'à certains endroits, de manière à produire des conflits parmi les habitants et des causes de querelle.

Cependant, sous les auspices de Sa Majesté Impériale, des mesures immédiates furent prises pour ne pas troubler la tranquillité des habitants fidèles de Sa Majesté. Les fauteurs de ces troubles furent recherchés et arrêtés par des mesures sages et modérées, et furent soumis à un interrogatoire suivant la prescription de la loi.

Or, les examens minutieux et les justes procédés qui ont été mis en œuvre à propos de cette affaire, étant des preuves suffisantes des manœuvres séditieux des susdits individus et de l'attitude modéré et miséricordieux du Gouvernement Impérial sont sommairement expliqué ci-dessous.

En ce qui regarde la question, à savoir, de quelle manière cette sédition avait été préparée à Merzifon, nous insérons ici en même temps des extraits d'un Mémoire du Procureur-Général de la Cour d'Appel de Sivas, qui avait été expédié sur les lieux pour y faire une enquête. Ces extraits éclaircissent suffisamment le véritable état de choses.

Les dossiers de l'instruction par rapport à l'affaire des placards affichés à Merzifon et à Hadjikeui, avec les papiers y afférent mis dans des enveloppes séparées et numérotées, sont expédiés ci-inclus. Or, les faits qui résultent de la lecture du dossier de l'instruction qui eut lieu à Hadjikeui peuvent se résumer ainsi qu'il suit :

Un certain Hatchadour Olakdjian, habitant du susdit district, dans son interrogatoire, qui se trouve dans la première page des papiers d'instruction criminelle, a déclaré que, trois semaines avant l'affichage des placards, un soir un homme s'est présenté chez lui, lui disant que Tomayan désire le voir et le conduisit à un endroit qui s'appelait Echmé, à l'extrémité du village. Là il rencontra avec le Tomayan en question six individus armés et portant des costumes Georgiens, ainsi qu'un certain Ouzoumoghlou Kaloust, habitant aussi de Hadjikeui. Alors le susdit Tomayan s'adressant à Kaloust, et lui donnant trente placards et une lettre, lui dit avec menace d'agir d'après le contenu de la susdite lettre. Cela dit, ils partirent. Après leur départ, lui et Kaloust firent venir chez lui parmi les Notables de l'endroit, les nommés Serkis Moulian et Méghir Moudjoulian et Kieurépé Geuturéyan, à qui ils ont fait lire la susdite lettre, où il était dit ce qui suit: "Si vous n'affichez pas ces placards pendant la nuit du 24 Décembre vous serez sévèrement punis."

Au haut de la lettre il y avait un sceau en Arménien en forme d'un œuf, et contenant ces mots: "La Direction des Partisans de Hyntchaguian." Là-dessus, ils brûlèrent la lettre et le susmentionné qui avait pris sa part des placards distribués parmi les assistants à la réunion, en donna trois à Hadji Hairabed, pelletier, un à Hatchadour Saboundji, et quelques autres à Hazerikhoghlou Kirkor, pour être remis à Kechichian Agop. Le susdit Hairabed déclara avoir brûlé les trois qu'il avait reçus.

Les nommés Kirkor et Hairabed, mentionnés ci-dessus comme ayant été chargés par le susdit Hatchadour de la suspension des placards, avouèrent le dire de Hatchadour ainsi qu'il est indiqué dans les pages 24, 16, et 18 de l'interrogatoire. Kirkor et Hairabed déclarèrent avoir brûlé les placards. Mais Hatchadour avoua les avoir affichés. Le nommé Kaloust, qui a été présent à la remise de la lettre et des placards, et à la lecture postérieure et dans la réunion qui eut lieu, ainsi qu'à l'acceptation et à la décision prise pour la distribution des placards, répète mot par mot, et confirma la déclaration de Hatchadour, en ajoutant qu'après avoir reçu la lettre et les placards

d'Artin Tomayan, ci-dessus mentionné, il y a eu une réunion chez Hatchadour, où l'on fit lire la lettre à Sahatbékian, et que les placards qui lui furent dévolus il les fit afficher par l'intermédiaire de Kaloust, Sari Oghlou, et de Karabet Hanoghlou, et que le sceau en haut de la lettre était dans la forme d'armes composées d'un stylet et d'un marteau entourés d'une chaîne. Un autre Kaloust et Karabet confirmèrent le dire du susdit Kaloust, ainsi qu'il est indiqué dans les pages 20 et 22 de l'interrogatoire. Le nommé Moulian Serkiz indiqué par Kaloust, qui avait reçu une partie des placards lors de la distribution pendant la réunion mentionnée ci-dessus, avoua qu'il les avait fait afficher par l'intermédiaire de Boghos Tchalim Oghlou et de Méghir Karagheuz Oghlou et d'Agop Perikoghlou. Parmi ces derniers Agop et Mighirditch ont déclaré pendant l'interrogatoire avoir reçu ces placards.

Le nommé Békéyan Sahak, qui avait lu la lettre présentée par Tomayan, et les nommés Keurépé Geuturéyan et Mighirditch Bortchoghlou, affirmèrent sous serment que, quoique présents à la réunion, ils n'avaient pas accepté, ni de prendre, ni d'afficher les placards en question. (Voir pages 10 et 12 de l'interrogatoire.)

Ainsi le résultat des recherches faites à Gumush Hadji Keui a été d'établir que la section des séditieux de cette localité était composée des susdits Hatchadour, Kaloust, Moulian Serkiz, Keurépé Geuturéyan, et Mighirditch Boudjlou Oghlou; et que les intermédiaires de leurs agissements étaient les suivants: Agop Kechichian, Hadji Hairabed Kurkdjioghlou, Mighirditch Karagheuzoghlou, Kaloust Sarioghlou, Karabet Doumanoghlou, Agop Perikoghlou, Kirkor Hazerikoghlou, et Boghos Tchalimoghlou; que la nommé Tomayan Artin et ses compagnons avaient été armés pour intimider les récalcitrants et qu'enfin les placards envoyés à cette section des séditieux furent affichés aux localités de Mademsim et aux environs du district de Hadjikeui. Les susdits treize individus qui sont les membres et les aides de la section en question se trouvent en état d'arrestation à l'exception de Tchalimoghlou Boghos, qui n'a pas pu encore être interrogé.

Quant aux recherches faites par rapport aux placards jetés sur le passage du public à Merzifon, et dont les papiers se trouvent sous l'enveloppe No. 2, il en résulte que les dix-sept accusés, dont les noms sont les suivants: Hatchadour Validian, Missak Deyirmendji, &c., ont nié avoir jamais entendu parler de l'affichage des placards, ainsi que cela est indiqué dans les pages de leurs interrogatoires respectifs. Cependant des Musulmans dignes de foi, tels que Souvadjoghlou Moustafa et Suleiman Keurkeuroghlou, &c., au nombre de neuf, déclarèrent sous serment avoir vu quelques-uns des accusés suspendre des placards.

Parmi ces accusés un certain Dikran Ohanoghlou, originaire de Tokat, était arrivé avant ces incidents à Merzifon, et une semaine après l'affaire des placards il était parti pour Amassia en costume de Circassien, armé d'un fusil à deux coups, d'un stylet, d'un revolver, et ayant à son cou suspendues deux rangées de cartouches. Celui-ci fut poursuivi et arrêté en chemin par le Commandant de Police, son Excellence Hosref Pacha. Ses armes furent saisies et lui-même fut mis aux arrêts. Le susmentionné a admis que ces armes étaient à lui. Le témoin Moustafa a rapporté que, la nuit de l'incident, il a rencontré le susmentionné, qui avait l'air pressé et perplexe, et qui lui demanda s'il était cocher. D'après le témoignage d'un certain Ismaïl, pendant que celui-ci était un soir à Merzifon, dans un khan, les nommés Dikran, horloger, et Agop Elikoghlou et Simon Turkdjioghlou étant allés dans sa chambre, le susdit Dikran, le prenant pour un Arménien, lui dit: "Personne ne vous soupçonne; veuillez, pour le salut de la nation, suspendre ces placards;" et quand l'autre lui répondit qu'il était Musulman, ils se sont empressés de lui offrir du "raki" et un dîner afin de cacher la parole qu'ils avaient dite. Il est vrai que ses compagnons les nommés Moursis et Haralam ont nié ce qui avait été dit, cependant le fait que les accusés en question avaient alors causé en Arménien, d'après le dire des susdits compagnons d'Ismaïl, cette circonstance corrobore le dire de celui-ci.

Or, le résultat de cette seconde enquête est que ceux qui ont répandu les écrits séditieux à Merzifon sont les quinze personnes dont les noms ont été mentionnés ci-dessus. Quant aux deux autres, à savoir: les nommés Karabet Tcherkessoghlou et Keurépé Euluzoghlou, on n'a pu trouver aucune preuve de culpabilité à leur égard. Ces accusés aussi sont aux arrêts.

Quant aux écrits séditieux qui ont été saisis pendant l'instruction de l'affaire des placards et qui sont inclus dans l'enveloppe No. 3, les auteurs et les correspondants en sont Artin Karaghouzian, de Merzifon, et Ademoghlou Ghazaros, originaire de Césarée et résidant dans le Mittel Khan de Gumush Hadjikeui, et Erhianoghlou Mirklan, et Agop Pouttian. Ceux-ci ont tâché d'interpréter à leur manière les susdits écrits, mais il a été prouvé qu'à l'instigation surtout de Mihran et Agop Pouttian, ils ont fait

partie du Comité et ont payé un Medjidié de cotisation et qu'ils recevaient le journal "Hyutchak." Parmi ceux-ci les trois sont aux arrêts, à l'exception d'Agop qui, d'après les informations, se trouve à Yuzgat. Des ordres ont été donnés pour le faire venir. D'après l'interrogatoire contenu dans le pli No. 4 deux maîtres d'école, sujets Ottomans, les nommés Tomayan Karabet et Ohannès Kubayan, au mois de Juillet de l'année de l'Hégire 1307, sans avoir aucune affaire importante, et obligatoire, ont fait le tour de Djouroum, Yuzgad, Césarée, et du couvent de Césarée, de Gumruh, de Burkhan, Chéhir Kiehla, de Sivas, de Tokat, d'Amassia, de Merzifon.

Ces voyages ont été avoué par eux-mêmes, ainsi que cela est constaté dans l'interrogatoire sous le pli No. 4. Or, indépendamment de ce que ces voyages sont déjà suspects il a été constaté, à la suite de l'instruction faite à Césarée et de documents saisis suivant les avis télégraphiques du Mutessarif de cette localité, que les susmentionnés, conjointement avec les nommés Nahabetian et Mighireditch Papazoghlou qui sont natifs de Césarée et résident à Merzifon, sont les chefs de la sédition.

Indépendamment des voyages suspects de ces deux chefs, l'épouse de Karabet Tomayan, nommée Lucisse, est partie il y a quatre ans pour l'Europe. Or, d'après trois lettres de cette femme et ci-inclus avec sa photographie, il ressort que son mari est le chef des séditieux et qu'elle-même fait des discours à Londres et des collectes pour l'Arménie en faisant accroire que c'est pour des hôpitaux et des églises et qu'elle a ramassé une somme de 3,000*l.*

Suivant le quatrième interrogatoire des papiers saisis dans la maison de Mighireditch Papazoghlou il est constaté que des envois de fusils Martini et d'autres armes ont eu lieu et que le susdit Mighireditch est un des séditieux.

Il résulte également de l'instruction que les placards en question ont été imprimés dans la lithographie du Collège Américain qui se trouve à Merzifon. Ce collège est une grande bâtisse en forme de caserne de trois étages, contenant quarante chambres, et il n'y a aucune mention officielle qu'il ait été bâti avec l'autorisation du Gouvernement. Il y a dans cette école de huit à neuf professeurs, dont les quatre sont des missionnaires Américains nommés Herrick, Smith, et Dwight, les autres sont des Arméniens, sujets de la Porte et chefs de la sédition. Le Gouvernement Local n'a aucune connaissance de ce qui est enseigné dans cette école. Ceux qui ont osé commettre l'action criminelle des placards, ainsi que les jeunes gens qui sont en armes dans la voie de la rébellion, ne sont que des élèves sortis de cette école. En outre, en comparant l'écriture d'un télégramme du susdit Herrick et un "tacrir" que les professeurs avaient adressé au Gouvernement Local, ainsi que du programme de l'école, on trouve une similitude parfaite avec celle des placards. Il y a un fait qui en apparence n'a aucun rapport avec l'affaire des placards, mais qui en réalité me semble avoir été produit en vue d'étouffer l'affaire en question. C'est le fait de l'incendie qu'il me semble nécessaire de développer en guise d'accessoire et d'appendice. Dans le voisinage de la susdite école il y a un vaste terrain, qui, en apparence, avait été acheté par un Arménien, Melcon Effendi, Médecin Municipal, et qui en réalité est une dépendance de l'école. L'année dernière on y a commencé la bâtisse, à grands frais, d'un établissement en forme de caserne. Or, lorsque l'affaire des placards est arrivée, et que le Gouvernement a commencé les poursuites et l'arrestation de ceux qui les ont répandus, les hommes de l'école, sentant que la manœuvre sera découverte, ont eux-mêmes mis le feu dans le susdit établissement. Lorsque l'incendie est arrivé, le Commandant de la Police, avec d'autres officiers du Gouvernement, se rendant immédiatement sur les lieux, a bien examiné l'endroit incendié. Or, les alentours étant couverts de neige, il n'a pu trouver aucune trace de pieds de personne qui auraient pu s'approcher du dehors, mais il a découvert de telles traces dans la voie qui conduit de l'édifice à l'école. Procès-verbal de toutes ces circonstances fut dressé et cacheté sur les lieux, dont une copie est incluse dans le pli No. 8.

A mon arrivée à Merzifon, j'ai demandé des renseignements là-dessus de ceux qui étaient à même de connaître ce qui s'était passé. Quelques-uns ont dit que, comme l'édifice n'avait pour gardien qu'un Arménien, c'était difficile que le feu y fût mis du dehors; d'autres, que si le feu avait été mis du dehors, il aurait pris d'un seul côté de l'édifice, et aurait graduellement brûlé le reste, mais le fait que l'édifice était en flammes de tous côtés démontre que le feu y avait été mis en plusieurs endroits. D'après le dire de plusieurs autres parmi les habitants, depuis le commencement de la construction de l'édifice en question, personne en dehors des Arméniens n'y est entré, et que l'entrée et la sortie étaient inconnues aux Musulmans. Ainsi, d'après l'opinion de tous, l'incendie ne pouvaient être causé que par les hommes de l'école. Si l'on considère, en outre, que l'édifice et l'école en question sont situés à l'extrémité du bourg, sans autre attenance, et que si l'on s'était approché du dehors, vu la neige qui

l'entourait, il y aurait eu des traces suivant le procès-verbal ci-dessus mentionné; si l'on considère aussi que le propriétaire apparent, le susdit médecin, n'a fait jusqu'à présent aucune démarche auprès de l'autorité; si, enfin, on se rend compte de toutes les autres preuves et indices indiqués dans le procès-verbal, il devient indubitable que l'édifice en question a été sacrifié à la réussite de manœuvres séditieuses.

N.B.—Suit un projet de Constitution, imprimé à Londres, des Socialistes Arméniens, qui a été traduit en Turc, mais en langue à peine compréhensible. Si, cependant, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur le désire, le Dragomanat tâchera tant bien que mal d'en faire une traduction.

Suite de l'affaire des Placards.

Deux espèces de placards furent suspendus dans les quartiers Musulmans aux maisons des Notables et aux cours des Mosquées de Yuzgat le 25 Janvier, 1308, les uns portant la signature du Comité des Patriotes Musulmans, et les autres des Indiens qui recherchent l'intérêt des Musulmans. Les uns étaient ouverts. On a soupçonné que c'est un certain Artin de Hadjikeui qui, une semaine avant, avait apporté des lettres et du linge à un certain Gasbard, qui est en état d'arrestation pour meurtre du gendarme Ibrahim et qui est un élève de l'École Protestante de Merzifon, que c'était cet Artin, disons-nous, qui aurait apporté les placards à Yuzgat.

Suivant un télégramme reçu du vilayet d'Angora en date du 28 du susdit mois, le nommé Assadour Zoulaloghlou, habitant de Hadjikeui, situé à trois heures de distance de Merzifon, ayant été arrêté, déclare que pendant qu'il était à Hadjikoui, quatorze individus, des Arméniens Protestants, commerçants et autres de l'endroit, l'ont fait venir à différents endroits lui faisant part de la formation d'une réunion contre le Gouvernement, que cette réunion possédait toute espèce d'armes, d'habits, de munitions, et des caisses de secours spéciales, qu'elle se mettra en armes dans un moment donné et montrera sa force, qu'ils ont 150 partisans à Hadjikeui et une foule d'autres en plusieurs endroits, que s'il entrait dans leur Association, il sera à jamais délivré de pauvreté et de gêne, et, enfin, qu'à cet effet on lui présenta un acte à signer que celui-ci n'a pas accepté; que la nuit de la suspension des placards, deux individus, oncle et neveu de l'avocat Seurépé, qui est un des compagnons de Gaspard Lozeroghlou, qui est un des séditieux et qui tout dernièrement avait été arrêté pour ces méfaits, sont passés à cheval sur la voie où avaient été jetés les placards et qu'ils doivent être nécessairement les auteurs de ce crime; que si on fait des perquisitions dans les habitations des susdits quatorze individus à Hadjikeui, on découvrira des armes et des costumes Circassiens, ainsi que des papiers et d'autres choses établissant leurs manœuvres séditieuses; que les nommés Bedros et Suhak, habitants de Merzifon et de Gumuch Hadjikeui, sont ceux qui ont jeté les placards sur les chaussées de Merzifon et de Yuzgat, que le nommé Kirkor, prédicateur de l'École Protestante, et qui fut arrêté, avait été envoyé à Tchoroum pour propager la sédition. Par suite de ces informations, le Gouvernement Local a donné des instructions à qui de droit d'approfondir les informations obtenues et de faire des perquisitions requises dans les maisons ci-dessus mentionnées.

Par suite des soupçons concernant Yuzat, le nommé Missak Ketchédjian, natif de la susdite ville, ayant été interrogé, a déclaré qu'un certain Abraham Aslanian l'avait invité quatre mois avant à une chambre de l'église et lui dit que la réunion secrète a demandé un homme de Yuzgat et que le Conseil Spirituel a décidé l'envoi d'un tel délégué. A cet effet il lui a montré la décision portant le sceau du susdit Conseil ajoutant que tous ces procédés et la suspension des placards sont faits en conformité de la décision du susdit Conseil. Par conséquent, le nommé Hampartzoum, Président du Conseil de la Communauté, et son complice Eprem et d'autres ont été consignés au Juge d'Instruction et le dossier ayant été expédié au Procureur-Général du vilayet d'Angora, l'affaire fut réglée en cet endroit.

Suivant le télégramme du Vilayet d'Angora, en date du 26 Décembre dernier, quelques-uns des placards en question furent aussi répandus dans les districts de Césarée et de Tchoroum comme aussi dans quelques villages voisins de Césarée. Là-dessus des recherches furent faites par l'autorité et un des séditieux, le nommé Agop Gueuyinli, ayant fait des aveux par rapport à la localité où la réunion avait lieu et la mode d'après laquelle elle était composée, on le fit accompagner par deux gendarmes et l'on a procédé aux perquisitions d'usage. Un des membres du Comité, le nommé Salatdji Agop, a indiqué de son propre gré les partisans de la sédition et il a confirmé les assertions du précédent Agop Gueuyinli. Or, suivant le résumé des déclarations faites par les personnes qui avaient été mises sous interrogatoire par rapport à cette

affaire, le nommé A. Richtouni, natif de Stamboul, provenant de Londres, se rendit à Athènes, et de là procéda deux mois auparavant à Orékir par voie de Mersine, et ensuite il alla se cacher dans le couvent de Drénik qui est aux environs du village de Tellas. Cet homme, en vue de renforcer la sédition, fut envoyé en secret en Césarée portant avec lui les instructions fondamentales du Comité et beaucoup d'autres papiers nuisibles. A l'heure qu'il est, il se trouve sous la sauvegarde de Hadji Keurépé, membre du Comité du village Bala Kessé, dépendance de Césarée. Là-dessus, des agents de justice furent expédiés au susdit village pour l'arrestation de l'individu, et afin qu'il ne reste aucun prétexte d'objection, deux Notables de la communauté Arménienne, MM. Bedros Mezikian, membre du Conseil Administratif, et Kevork Katchakdjian ont été envoyés en compagnie de l'agent de police, Ahmed Bey, au couvent de Drévenk et des perquisitions régulières furent faites dont le résultat a été de saisir un grand nombre de papiers séditieux d'Andou Richtouni et un certificat sur l'identité de Richtouni portant un sceau grand et contenant les mots "Comité Révolutionnaire Central d'Angora;" en outre, les habits et les munitions du fameux bandit Tchuli qui avait dévalisé précédemment le courrier de l'endroit, et ceux de quelques autres Arméniens qui avaient tué une femme du village de Tellas et dépouillé plusieurs voyageurs. De plus, un fusil Winchester et un revolver, et comme il en a été démontré que le prêtre de ce couvent n'était pas seulement un fauteur de sédition, mais aussi receleur de bandits; lui et les objets saisis furent amenés et remis à l'autorité. De son côté le prêtre, ne voyant pas le moyen de nier, s'est déclaré coupable et sur les investigations faites on a pu clairement constater qui étaient ceux qui ont répandu les placards en Césarée, c'est-à-dire, que les personnes qui furent soumises à un interrogatoire en Césarée ont avoué de leur propre gré et signèrent leur aveu que les placards en question avaient été imprimés par Tomayan et Kayayan, professeurs de l'École Protestante de Merzifon et que la correspondance par rapport aux procédés de la sédition était faite par les mêmes.

La copie des placards se trouve insérée dans le journal "Hyntchakian," qui s'imprime à Athènes, en date de Juillet et qui fut trouvé parmi les papiers d'Andou Richtouni. Selon ce qui résulte des papiers saisis et des déclarations des susmentionnés, la réunion des séditieux de Merzifon, sur l'avis du Comité d'Athènes, a décidé entre autres et d'un commun accord l'affaire des placards. Ces placards furent imprimés à Merzifon et la quantité nécessaire fut expédiée à Ketchédjian Missak, maître de l'école Vahan, et figurant comme délégué de Yuzat au Comité Central de Merzifon. Celui-ci ajouta aux placards destinés à Yuzgat trente de grand format et trois de petit format de ceux qui étaient destinés à Césarée, le reste au nombre de soixante-dix de petit format et seize de grand format, fut mis à l'adresse du Comité de Césarée avec les instructions nécessaires pour la distribution.

Par conséquent, Ohannès Arzumanoghlou, et Hadji Daniel Linaritchoghlou, et Agop Tchoukapé Oghlou, furent chargés de les répandre en Césarée. Le susnommé Keurépé, qui est aux arrêts, en avait reçu pour les répandre dans les villages Afkéré, Gueldjérik, et Sénizé, et Gulbenk, qui est également arrêté, fut chargé de les répandre dans les villages de Dolsoun, Istefané, et Teherlavouk. Douze de ces placards se trouvent actuellement du Gumruk. Le Gouvernement a également saisi un procès-verbal du Comité de Merzifon, contenant les règlements fondamentaux du Comité et les décisions de la réunion des douze membres qui eut lieu en Juillet. Cet écrit porte le sceau contenant les mots "Comité Révolutionnaire Hyntchakian de Merzifon."

Copie du procès-verbal ci-dessus mentionné. Règlement fondamental de l'assemblée des partisans de révolution dans le siège central.

Décision prise au mois de Décembre pendant la seconde réunion.

Cette assemblée était composée des délégués suivants: pour Merzifon, MM. Missé et Vahram; pour Sivas, Arlzrouni; pour Tokat, Polorik; pour Amassia, Achod; pour Yuzgat, Zaréli; pour Césarée, Khrante; pour Tchoroum, Ghabet; pour Svunghourlou, Emrop; et pour Hadjikeui, Vitchen.

Les Délégués de Vézirkeupru et Gumruk n'assistaient pas à cette réunion.

Le premier devoir de l'assemblée étant de constituer son bureau, il a été procédé ainsi qu'il suit. M. Missé, étant le délégué de Merzifon, fut élu Président et l'autre délégué de Merzifon, nommé Vahram, fut nommé Secrétaire. Après cela on a procédé à la lecture des lettres par lesquelles les délégués étaient accrédités et ayant été reconnues en due forme, les porteurs en furent acceptés comme membres ayant droit au vote. Seulement le délégué envoyé par Kapou Kaya n'étant pas fourni d'une lettre dans la forme requise, il lui fut seulement permis d'assister aux réunions sans voter, conformément au Règlements de l'assemblée. Après cela l'assemblée s'est occupée de l'exécution des décisions prises à la réunion précédente. Le Président,

prenant à la main le procès-verbal, a donné lecture, l'une après l'autre, des susdites décisions et il a demandé compte de chacune des branches de l'Association, des mesures qu'elles avaient prises à cet effet. Chacun des délégués fournit l'explication requise accompagnée de ses observations et l'on donna fin à la réunion. Seconde réunion de l'assemblée le 12 Septembre, 1308.

On y commença par la lecture des procès-verbaux de la séance précédente. L'assemblée écouta la lecture des deux nouveaux Rapports contenant des instructions et chacun des membres exposa son avis et après une courte discussion là-dessus on a fait passer dans le livre-journal les questions à l'ordre du jour. Après une discussion sur des questions de moindre importance, cette séance aussi prit fin.

La troisième séance eut lieu le 13 Septembre de la même année.

L'assemblée, après avoir confirmé l'une après l'autre les décisions prises à la séance précédente, recommanda la diligence au Comité d'Exécution, qui avait un peu négligé de prendre des mesures immédiates. Ensuite, on délibéra sur les questions à l'ordre du jour et l'on s'occupa spécialement d'une de ces questions et après une longue discussion il fut décidé par la pluralité des voix de procéder immédiatement à l'exécution des décisions prises ainsi qu'il suit :—

1. Que la Direction de confiance de Merzifon, c'est-à-dire cette même assemblée, doit surveiller les affaires des succursales, leur donner des instructions, et de faire exécuter tout service que requiert la cause sacrée ; que pour la bonne exécution de toutes ces affaires il y aura dans l'intérieur de la province un inspecteur ambulant ayant avec lui des petites compagnies de gendarmes. A cet effet, vu qu'il y a nécessité de force matérielle et morale et les succursales devant payer mois par mois, et par anticipation une contribution, il y aura, soit auprès de la Direction centrale, soit auprès des succursales, une caisse spéciale à cet effet.

2. Pour le moment Merzifon, Sivas, Tokat, Amassia, Césarée, Yuzgat, et Gumruk seront obligés de payer une demi-livre par mois ; Hadjikeui et Sounghourli, un quart de livre ; Tchoroum et Kenpru, 12½ piastres or à dater du commencement du mois d'Octobre 1892, et le Président et le Secrétaire furent chargés de choisir selon la décision de l'assemblée un inspecteur ambulant doué de la capacité nécessaire et de lui faire commencer immédiatement son service.

3. D'après la décision unanime de la séance, il sera procédé à la publication d'un journal ayant pour titre, "La Guerre à dater du commencement de l'Année 1893," et paraissant une fois chaque quinze jours et dont chaque feuille sera vendue à 20 paras.

4. Il y aura auprès de chaque Direction un cheval acheté aux frais de l'Association et ce cheval sera en cas de besoin à la disposition des inspecteurs ambulants, et quelquefois il pourra être donné au cas échéant aux rebelles.

5. Il sera nécessaire que chaque succursale envoie de l'argent pas plus tard que le 1er Novembre, aussitôt que la première commande d'armes sera donnée.

6. Des décisions furent prises à condition qu'elles restassent parmi les membres de l'assemblée.

Conclusion.

Le Président et le Secrétaire sont investis du droit de convoquer les membres pour des cas extraordinaires.

Résumé d'une Pétition télégraphique des habitants des villes et villages Arméniens de la province, adressée au Ministre de l'Intérieur pour être soumise à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Les Soussignés regrettent que certains écervelés ont par leur attitude criminelle porté une tâche sur la fidélité séculaire de la communauté, ils expriment leur contentement de ce que ces criminels ont été arrêtés et livrés à la justice et expriment leur reconnaissance pour le bien-être et la tranquillité dont ils jouissent sous les auspices de leur auguste Maître Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

(Suivent une centaine de signatures.)

Conclusion.

La base et la nature des mouvements criminels qui ont eu lieu dans la susdite contrée ont été développées ci-dessus, et toutes les classes des habitants se trouvant en sûreté sous la protection de Sa Majesté, ne font que faire des vœux pour sa prospérité et sa gloire, de manière que ces sortes de séditions ne pourraient aucunement les influencer. Cependant, bien qu'il fut possible d'écraser immédiatement les séditieux

par le moyen de la force armée, grâce à la mansuétude de Sa Majesté, on s'est borné de livrer les criminels à la justice ordinaire.

En outre, pour qu'il ne reste aucune cause ou prétexte de récrimination, on ne les a pas fait juger par les Tribunaux inférieurs de district et de liva, mais on les fera juger par un Tribunal spécial au chef-lieu du vilayet, qui devra statuer avec grande attention et impartialité. On aura soin de découvrir ceux qui ont pris part dans la distribution des placards, et ceux qui se sont trouvés coupables recevront la peine qui leur est prescrite par la loi, de même que ceux qui sont reconnus innocents seront immédiatement libérés.

En outre, pour ce qui concerne les perquisitions à faire dans l'École des Protestants de Merzifon, le Secrétaire de la Légation Américaine, M. Newberry, accompagné de Djémal Bey, employé du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, est parti dernièrement pour Merzifon afin de prendre part à cet égard aux procédés des agents de l'autorité locale.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson.

IT is very difficult to summarize a document which enters into a variety of details, many of which are not of importance, and all of which are incomplete. It is impossible to form any opinion as to the value of the evidence, which is fragmentary and extorted under interrogatory from individuals arrested under suspicion, and who appear to have denounced their alleged accomplices. Only one side of the question is presented, and the "pièces justificatives" are not communicated.

The document commences with the placards affixed at Hadjikeui, near Marsovan, the place where the college building was burned. Thirteen individuals have been arrested, and the document states that they form the seditious society of Hadjikeui, and were implicated in the affixing of the placards. I may mention that some of the individuals declared that they destroyed the copies of the placards which they had received.

The document then proceeds to deal with the placards "jetés sur le passage public de Marsovan." Seventeen individuals were accused for complicity in this act. They all denied knowing anything about the placards, but the document states that nine Moslems "dignes de foi" aver, under oath, having seen some of the accused affix the placards.

The document then deals with the cases of the two professors of the American College at Marsovan who have been arrested. Allusion is first made to a suspicious journey made by these two, Toumaian and Kabayan, in July 1892 to Yuzgat, Cesarea, Sivas, &c. It is said that this journey, coupled with some seditious documents which have been seized, points to the two professors as the chiefs of the sedition. Further, the wife of Toumaian went to Europe four years ago, and from three letters addressed to her husband it is shown that he is the "chef des séditieux." She herself has made speeches in London and collected some 3,000*l.* on behalf of so-called schools and hospitals.

From the inquiry, it is proved, it is said, that the placards were printed in the "lithographie" of the American College at Marsovan. The document says that there are eight or nine professors there, four of whom are Americans and the rest Armenians, "chefs de la sédition."

The document appears to insinuate that Dr. Herrick, the American Principal, is the author of the placards, as it states: "En comparant l'écriture d'un télégramme du susdit Herrick, et un Takrir que les professeurs avaient adressé au Gouvernement Local, ainsi que du programme de l'école, on trouve une similitude parfaite avec celle des placards." The document then goes on at some length to show that the building was burnt by the professors themselves to cover their seditious manœuvres.

Returning to the placard question, the document states that the placards affixed at Yuzgat were of two kinds, some bearing the signature of the Committée of Mussulman Patriots, and the others of Indians, "qui recherchent l'intérêt des Musulmans." It is not clear what is here meant, because the document proceeds to attach suspicion in regard to these placards to the "Conseil Spirituel" of Yusgat, and states that the President of this "Conseil" and others have been arrested, and their "dossier" sent to the Procureur-Général of Angora.

With respect to the placards in the district of Cesarea, a certain A. Richtouni is chiefly implicated. This individual is a native of Stamboul, and coming from London, proceeded to Athens, whence he went to the monastery of Drénik, and then secretly to Cesarea. The results of domiciliary visits in the monastery of Drénik led to the discovery of a great number of seditious papers of A. Richtouni, and a certificate of identity bearing a large seal with the inscription "Central Revolutionary Committee of Angora;" further, the clothes and ammunition of the famous bandit Tchuli, and those of some other Armenians who had killed a woman and robbed travellers. The priest of the monastery was arrested not only as an instigator to sedition but also as a concealer of brigands. He confessed his guilt. Others arrested at Cesarea avowed that the placards were printed by Toumaian and Kabayan, the professors in the Protestant School at Marsovan, and that these two carried on the correspondence in regard to the sedition.

The document states that a copy of the placards is to be found in a number of the journal "Hatchakian," published at Athens in the month of July, and this number was found among the papers of Richtouni. The document explains the manner and through what channels the placards were distributed in the Cesarea district.

The document states that the Government have seized a *procès-verbal* of the Committee of Marsovan, containing the Regulations of the Committee and the decisions of the meeting of twelve delegates in July. This paper bears the seal, with the words "Revolutionary Committee Hatchakian of Marsovan."

A copy of the *procès-verbal* is annexed to the document. The names of Toumaian and Kabayan do not appear among the delegates. The funds of the Committee do not seem to be very plentiful judging from the amount of contributions to be levied. The highest contribution from a district is to be £ T. ½ (9*s.*) monthly, and the lowest about 2*s.*, while each section is authorized to purchase one horse for the travelling inspectors, which horse may, on emergencies, be given to the "rebels."

In conclusion, the document states that although it would have been easy to crush the sedition by force of arms, yet the criminals were handed over to justice, and will be tried by a special Tribunal at the chief town of the vilayet, and those who are found guilty will receive a punishment in accordance with the law.

The document is unsatisfactory; it is lengthy without being complete, and is of little value in enabling any judgment to be formed of the situation. It evidently touches upon but the fringe of the question, and does not carry any conviction to one's mind. It would be easy to make many comments on its deficiencies, but a perusal of it will at once suggest them.

It is very possible that there is a secret revolutionary movement among certain sections of the Armenians, but the disclosures made by the document would not lead one to suppose that the movement was very serious. No mention is made of the numerous arrests which, according to common report, have been effected throughout Asia Minor, as the document deals with but a few incidental cases. The observations as to the American College are evidently dictated by great animus, and the deductions are hardly credible. In any case, Mr. Newberry's Report will throw much light on that part of the question.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Constantinople, April 6, 1893.

No. 39.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 126.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 7, 1893.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 57 of the 3rd instant, in which I reported to your Lordship that the Sultan had been pleased to grant a general amnesty to the Armenians who, in various provinces of Asia Minor, were suspected of being concerned in the posting of seditious placards, I have the honour to inclose herein to your Lordship copy of an extract which has been inserted in the local newspapers of this city, which confirms the information which I had telegraphed to your Lordship.

I may further state that I heard yesterday from the Grand Vizier that the amnesty has been extended to 500 Armenians, and that a certain number of Armenian prisoners who were in confinement previous to the late events will likewise benefit by His Imperial Majesty's act of clemency.

I understand from the Grand Vizier that the number of prisoners who will be tried for offences connected with the late seditious movement will number about fifty persons, apart from those who may be subsequently apprehended on a similar charge.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Extract from the "Levant Herald," of April 6, 1893.

IMPERIAL CLEMENCY.—The Ministry of Justice has addressed a "Teskéré" to the Armenian Patriarchate informing it that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has been graciously pleased to pardon several Armenians incarcerated in the prisons of the Provinces of Sivas and Angora. His Beatitude Mgr. Khorène Ashkian has telegraphed the glad news to the Armenian Bishops of the above-named provinces, requesting them at the same time to read prayers in the churches for the preservation of the precious life of the Sovereign.

No. 40.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 127.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 8, 1893.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 56 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has communicated to me the Report he has received from the Minister of Justice with regard to the decisions of the "Cour de Cassation" on the sentences passed by the Court of Appeal of Aleppo on the Bishop of Zeitoun and others.

1. The penalty of death is confirmed on the priest Der Ghevont, who was convicted of being the principal cause of the events at Zeitoun.

2. The Bishop of Zeitoun, Gumbet by name, is condemned to perpetual imprisonment in a fortress for having been implicated in the revolt in question.

3. The other persons who took part in the sedition have been condemned to various terms of imprisonment, according to their degree of culpability.

The "Cour de Cassation" has rejected the request for annulling the sentence passed on Nigoghos, Bishop of the Monastery of Fernooz, found guilty of being one of the most important chiefs of the malcontents.

The "dossier" in this case has been returned to the local Judicial authorities, owing to a legal flaw in it, and the case will be retried.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 41.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 133. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1893.

THE Sultan having been pleased to grant a general amnesty to the Armenians implicated in the recent disturbances in Asia Minor, and formal assurances on this subject having been given me by the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I venture to submit to your Lordship that it is no longer advisable to dispatch Colonel Chermside on a special mission of inquiry as I was authorized to do by your Lordship's telegram No. 34 of the 24th March.

The mere suggestion of sending Colonel Chermside seems to have produced the effect desired, and I would therefore propose to retain him here in readiness in case any recrudescence of the troubles in Asia Minor should occur.

In the meantime, I would ask your Lordship's permission to instruct Mr. Consul Graves, who is in Constantinople on his way to Erzeroum, to proceed to his post

overland. Mr. Graves could in this manner visit Angora, Yuzgat, Cesarea, Sivas, Kharput, and perhaps Diarbekir.

The journey would take something less than two months at a cost of not more than 150*l.*

From the Report which will be furnished by Mr. Graves, Her Majesty's Government will be put in possession of really authentic information with regard to the Armenian movement and the Turkish methods of repression, which information has so far, I am sorry to say, been conspicuously meagre and untrustworthy.

Should your Lordship approve this proposal, I would request to be authorized by telegraph to dispatch Mr. Graves in order that no time may be lost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 42.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 10, 1893.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the recent Armenian troubles, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a précis giving a short sketch of the incidents at Marsovan in connection with the so-called seditious placards posted in that town. The information is entirely drawn from Consular and other Reports in my possession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Précis of Events at Marsovan.

THE affair of the seditious placards is first reported by Consul Longworth in his despatch No. 8 of the 8th February, 1893, and then in his No. 10 of the 11th February, his sources of information being Mr. Spadaro, Consular Agent at Samsoun (date of letter not stated), and Dr. Jewitt, United States' Consul at Sivas (letter of the 21st January).

Mr. Spadaro gives the 19th January as the date of the posting of these placards; Dr. Jewitt giving "on or about the 1st January." Mr. Spadaro mentions Amassia, Marsovan, Tchoroum, Tokat, Yuzgat, Angora, Diarbekir, and according to some accounts Sivas, as the places affected, and speaks of numerous arrests, especially at Amassia. Dr. Jewitt only speaks of "many cities and towns in this region."

Mr. Spadaro reports that the Armenians of the interior accuse the Softa malcontents of the authorship of the placards, while Dr. Jewitt refers to the charge that they were printed in the American College at Marsovan as "all bosh as far as the American missionaries are concerned."

In a further despatch to Mr. Longworth, dated the 15th February, Mr. Spadaro reports the burning of part of the Marsovan College on the 2nd February, and states as a certainty that Hosref Pasha, Chief of the Sivas Gendarmerie, had himself set fire to the college. Dr. Jewitt, in his letter to Mr. Longworth of the 14th February from Marsovan, alludes to this officer's threats to destroy the college, and his suspicious appearance on the scene of the fire, and reports the adoption of severe measures "calculated to stir up excitement and lead to violence," at Marsovan, and the indiscriminate arrest of persons found in the streets of Amassia and Sivas after a certain hour at night.

On the 20th March Mr. Spadaro reports on the irritated feeling of the Mussulman population of the interior against the Armenians, who appear to him to justify this hostility by their conduct, and he speaks confidently of the existence of Secret Committees everywhere in the interior, and the manufacture of bombs at Marsovan, which he calls the centre ("foyer") of the agitation.

In his despatch of the 25th March, Mr. Spadaro gives the number of Christians placed under arrest at about 1,800, distributed as follows:—

Yuzgat Notables	142
" peasants	338
Cesarea	280
Marsovan	50
Tokat	50
Sivas	300
Amassia	70
Divrig	80
Arabkir	150
Kharput	70
Diarbekir	70
Aleppo and Marash	20
Hadji Keuy	30
Tchoroum	30
And in other places not specified	120
Total	1,800

Mr. Longworth, in his No. 18 of the 28th March, comments on the above data, throwing doubt upon the accuracy of the figures for the more distant places, such as Aleppo, and inclines to the theory of the Softa authorship of the seditious placards which formed the starting-point of the present agitation. He scouts the absurd charge of incendiarism brought by the Turkish authorities against the American missionaries of Marsovan, or the idea of their being implicated in any seditious movement, but he is clearly of opinion that such a movement does exist among the Armenians of the interior, and mentions the seizure of seditious documents at Samsoun, which had been forwarded thither from Athens to the address of a local merchant.

Mr. Newton, the British Vice-Consul at Angora, in his despatch No. 4 of the 28th March, reports the arrival of prisoners from Yuzgat and Cesarea at Angora, making in all about 180 imprisoned there. He also is informed on good authority of the smuggling of fire-arms into the district, and increased vigilance on the part of the authorities.

A telegram from Mr. Longworth, dated the 1st April, gives 550 as the number of prisoners in the vilayets other than Trebizond, but this does not tally with his No. 18 of the 28th March, to which the telegram refers.

A despatch from Mr. Fitzmaurice No. 10 of the 25th March, reports no fresh political disturbance in the Erzeroum district, and on the 6th April Mr. Boyajian, the Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reports by telegraph only two Armenians in gaol in Diarbekir on political charges, seven in Kharput, and forty to fifty (supposed) in Arabkir, as against seventy, seventy, and 150 in the list furnished by Mr. Spadaro.

In the conversation with the Armenian Patriarch which Mr. Mariniteh has recorded in his Memorandum of the 24th March, his Beatitude alludes to the arrest of Armenians at Yuzgat and Cesarea on the charge of posting up seditious placards, which he states are in reality the work of the discontented Softas sent away from Constantinople some months ago. His explanation of the troubles at Cesarea is as follows: That certain Armenians accused of sedition had fled thence to Athens, and that one of them who had returned was arrested when in possession of a list of 120 persons from whom he had collected money ostensibly for charitable purposes. All these persons were arrested and brought to Angora.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the course of his interview with Her Majesty's Ambassador, reported in Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 105 of the 26th March, declared that the accounts of these troubles which had appeared in several English newspapers were grossly exaggerated, and that the number of Armenian prisoners was not half so great as had been represented. He admitted, however, that, owing to the distribution of seditious placards, very many arrests of suspected Armenians had been made, and promised to supply his Excellency with a copy of the Report of the Governor-General of Angora giving a full account of the disturbances. This promise has not yet been fulfilled, but a copy of the Report of the Procureur-Général of Sivas, who was sent to investigate the affair of Marsovan, has been communicated to Her Majesty's Embassy, and the gist of this document has been embodied in a Memorandum dated the 6th April, 1893, by Sir Arthur Nicolson, who points out very clearly its unsatisfactory character and the little value that attaches to it in enabling any judgment to be formed of the situation.

No. 43.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April 14, 1893, 2:30 P.M.*

MOUTRAN BEY, a Palace agent usually resident in Paris, is, as I am informed on fair authority, now demanding, with some prospect of success, the Concession of the Syrian lines. The Concession will be practically a French one, as the financing of the concern will be worked by a French group.

No. 44.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 13, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies in translation of the seditious placards which were posted up at different places in Asia Minor. I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Newberry, Secretary of the United States' Legation, for copies of the placards which he obtained during his recent mission to Marsovan.

The Proclamations were written on small-sized paper by means of cyclostyle, and I am informed that about ninety in all were publicly affixed, chiefly in localities where the Armenians are not very numerous. The Proclamations are addressed to Moslems by Moslems, or "big Indians" professing to have the interests of Islam at heart, and make no allusion, direct or indirect, to the Christian population of the Ottoman Empire. The style and tenour of the Proclamation emanating from the "Indians" are such as would scarcely be very comprehensible to the ordinary native, and its enigmatical allusion would be rather puzzling than otherwise to the average intelligence of those to whom it presumably is addressed.

It would be a matter of some difficulty to obtain a clue as to who the authors of these productions are, or as to the source whence they may have been inspired.

I also beg leave to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Trebizond and Aleppo in regard to the situation of the Armenians in their respective districts

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Placard.

(Translation.)
Osmanlis!

THE last days have approached of Abd-ul-Hamid, the tyrant, who has soiled the sacred throne of Osman and rendered the religion of Islam detestable.

To the heavens have risen the cries of vengeance of the blood spilt by that tyrant in destroying and overthrowing our beloved Fatherland in order that he should be maintained on the throne which he has illegally usurped.

The moment of vengeance has arrived.

A great Power which rules over millions of Moslems is coming to your assistance.

Be of courage.

(The Committee of the patriots of Islam.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Placard.

(Translation.)

THE renowned Indian remedy, which is a cure for all ills, and has gained a glorious reputation in the whole world. This medicine is the best of all medicines known hitherto.

It is the proved remedy for disease of the heart, paralysis, throat ailments, fear, and all other diseases which daily and hourly affect men, and which yearly brings death to thousands of patriots.

It is the medicine which the famous "John Company" used a thousand years ago in India, and in accordance with special Iradé given by Victoria, Queen of England, thirty-four years ago, it is the medicine still in use in that country.

It has great effect upon men. It gives force to the body to resist fear, poverty, famine, and oppression. It gives light to the eyes to see, and hearing to the ears to hear.

Although the usage of this medicine has been recommended in Turkey before this, tyrannous men have prevented its use. The doctor who has great celebrity in the usage of this renowned medicine will shortly, with numerous assistants, come into Turkey, and will distribute the medicine gratuitously to the inhabitants.

Then the people, with the assistance of this doctor and his medicine, will be cured and will drive out those oppressors and tryants.

The whole of Turkey will then attain prosperity and live in tranquillity.

(The Indians who seek the salvation of the people of Islam.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

Consul Jago to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Aleppo, March 28, 1893.*

IN pursuance of your Excellency's telegraphic instructions dated the 23rd instant, to send you all trustworthy information I can obtain as to the treatment of Armenians in my district as well as to the number in prison, I have the honour to report that the oppression of Armenians in the Vilayet of Aleppo which followed the events of Zeitoun of the autumn of 1890 has, during the past two or three months, practically ceased, and no arrests have been since made for alleged political offences.

On the other hand, they are still regarded with suspicion by the authorities; hindrances are placed in the way of their quitting or arriving in the country; those in Government employ have been diminished in number; and they no longer possess, so far as Aleppo is concerned, representative members in the various Medjlisses like other sects.

There are forty-six prisoners in the Aleppo prisons, some others elsewhere, namely, twenty-six Zeitounlees already condemned a year ago in connection with the Zeitoun events; one Zeitounlee condemned to three years' imprisonment for denying evidence previously given; fourteen still under trial belonging to various parts of the vilayet who have been in prison four to nine months, accused, some on bare suspicion only, of treasonable practices or sympathies; and five detained for being in possession of irregular travelling passports and who as a rule are sent back, after a few days' detention, to their own country.

Of the fourteen persons I have mentioned as under trial, one, Neghogos, aged 75, Bishop of Furnooz, between Hadjin and Zeitoun, was yesterday condemned to eight years' imprisonment; a woman named Elizabeth to three years, and her brother Manook to two years. The evidence against them is stated to have been of the flimsiest description.

I may mention that fourteen Zeitounlees who were condemned a year ago by default are still in the mountains.

As regards the Vilayet of Adana I will make a later report as soon as I can obtain precise information, but so far as I know, a marked improvement has taken place since the arrival here of Nessanik Bey, the new Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 4 in No. 44.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, March 28, 1893.*

I DULY received your Excellency's cyphered telegram of the 24th instant, asking me to send such trustworthy information as may be obtainable on the arrest and ill-treatment of Armenians within my district.

On the receipt and perusal of Mr. Spardao's despatch yesterday, I wired to your Excellency in the sense that, according to his estimate, the number of political prisoners throughout the central parts of Asia Minor appeared to be about 1,800. This high figure, it will be seen, affects five distinct vilayets, without that of

Trebizond. The area, in fact, taken in by Mr. Spadaro's estimate is a large one. I do not exactly know how it is he includes in the list the twenty arrests at Aleppo and Marash, towns one would suppose, being so far to the south, are in business relations and trade connection with Alexandretta rather than with Samsoon.

Let me here arrange the other numbers in a form that will give a more lucid idea of localities. We will take Sivas as centre, where 300 are in prison. Within the vilayet to the north and north-east lie Tokat, 50; Amassia, 70; Marsovan, 20; Hadjikeui, 30; and South-east Divrigh, 80. Westwards, in the Angora Vilayet, is Yuzgat, 480, south of which lies Kaisarieh, 280, and North Chorum, 30. South-eastwards is Kharput, 70, with this side of it Arabkir, 150. The greatest in distance is Diarbekir, 70, which lies further south-east.

Your Excellency is aware that the jurisdiction of this Consulate extends over two vilayets only, that of Trebizond and that of Sivas. In the first of these two provinces Armenian affairs are comparatively in a lull, and for this we have to thank the Governor-General Cadri Bey. Intrigues were not wanting, but his Excellency happily has no taste for tragedies. He rightly shrinks from bringing sorrow into families without duly weighing the nature and sufficiency of evidence brought against suspects. To instance this, in November last, a very revolutionary song was found in the possession of an Armenian school-master at Trebizond, named Agop Messayantz. The course taken by his Excellency in the matter was simply to expel the man to his home at Sivas, and to warn his patrons here to be more careful in future how they select teachers.

That a deplorable state of disquietude exists in the Sivas Vilayet is only too evident. This has been brought about, perhaps, just as much by the thoughtless and reckless among the governing as among the governed. Sivas, Marsovan, Amassia, and Tokat, we are told, are the centres of an agitation which has and is still spreading with alarming proportions in all directions.

It will be understood, I think, how impossible it is for me to ascertain exactly at this distance what is actually occurring in those parts. Details with anything like certitude I cannot give, dependent as I am solely for such information on Dr. Jewett, the United States' Consul at Sivas, and Mr. Spadaro, our Consular Agent at Samsoon.

Copies of their despatches and extracts of their letters I have hitherto transmitted with regularity, but without responsibility.

I am now using their contents in taking this general view of the situation, enlarging and modifying them slightly by such other facts as have come to my knowledge. By these facts I mean events which have taken place chiefly within the Vilayet of Trebizond. For such alone, few as they are, am I in a position to assert the truth, and this with that degree of confidence only as would arise from a searching inquiry and careful comparison of at times conflicting versions derived from official and private sources alike.

No one questions the right of the Government to suppress sedition before it blazes up into an insurrection. But it seems in this many officials have set themselves to the work in a rather arbitrary manner.

Little moderation or leniency appears to have been shown. We find that in the Vilayet of Sivas alone there are at present 550 persons in gaol, on perhaps very frivolous political charges. Some of them are doubtless guilty; most of them are probably innocent.

In wholesale arrests little discrimination is likely to be made by those left to their own discretion. Vested with exceptional powers, and free from control, there is reason to think that several officials execute the task with no judgment, no kindness, and no justice. In other words, a field has been opened to the cruel, the rapacious, and the licentious, not to include those who seek in all this their own aggrandizement in the service of the State.

It is difficult to form a true and clear conception of the causes which have brought about these disturbances in the very heart of Asia Minor. I may, nevertheless, be allowed here to give my own impressions, with, of course, all due reserve.

It will be within the recollection of your Excellency that, late in November last, a large number of theologian students called Softas were summarily expelled from Constantinople. No less than 700 of these Turks were brought to this coast in a specially chartered steamer. About eighty of them were landed at Samsoon to get to their houses in the interior. There were evident signs among them of indignation and displeasure at the treatment they had received. It was fully expected at the time, as reported by me in my despatch of the 3rd October, that mischief would be brewed by them before long. The Palace seems to have discovered soon after that they were

so many firebrands dispersed over the Empire for, within a month they were invited to return, an invitation few, if any, accepted. On the 19th January, treasonable and inflammatory placards, printed in Turkish, were found posted up simultaneously at Diarbekir, Sivas, Angora, Yuzgat, Chorum, Tokat, Amassia, Marsovan, and perhaps other towns in route connection with Samsoon. The Vilayets of Trebizond and Erzeroum remained out of it, prevented, I am inclined to think, by the then existing cordons and quarantines against cholera.

Now, what direct practical purpose could the Armenians in their aspirations possibly gain by thus grossly vilifying not the State so much as the Sultan in [*sic*] of all Turkish language?

The answer of reasonable thinkers would be none. It is not quite so when the question is asked as regards the Mahommedan element.

There have been certain indications that the better class of Turks are pining for a Constitution.

The present Sultan by keeping it in abeyance, it would seem, is gradually losing the sympathy of his better educated Moslem subjects. Admitting this as a fact, it is by no means improbable that the originators of the placards were some patriotic zealots, aided by Softas and others. They hoped, perhaps, to force the hands of His Majesty by kindling a flame in a country where already Kurds and Armenians have reduced loyalty to a minimum.

The Turkish official mind, however, had much narrower views. The Armenians where at once pounced upon as the authors of the placards. It was not entirely without some purpose. The sudden domiciliary visits made by the authorities for printing presses, disclosed instead arms and ammunition in concealment. Those who could escape took to the mountains, where they are now exercising, it would appear, the profession of highwaymen, if not insurgents.

Next in order comes the incendiary act at Marsovan.

A building belonging to the American Board of Missionaries, costing about 1,000*l.*, and destined for a girls' school was, on the 2nd February, deliberately burnt down. It was unfinished, unfurnished, and unoccupied.

The deed was committed, it is alleged, by gendarmes on the order of their Colonel who, it is added, on being refused admittance for a search, threatened openly the destruction of all the college establishments.

Other accounts put it otherwise.

The American Missionaries, a few would like it to be believed, set fire to the building themselves, in order that the police may not discover therein such stores as arms, ammunition, books, and other articles of a kind very compromising.

Mr. Newberry, First Secretary of the United States' Legation at Constantinople, who is now at Marsovan, attended by Djemal Bey of the Turkish Foreign Office, and aided by Dr. Jewett in investigating the affair, will not, I daresay, be very much embarrassed by so flimsy a charge, apparently invented by the delinquent himself in his now extreme perplexity.

That a latent state of conspiracy actually exists among Armenians in the interior is unquestionable.

An incident occurred lately to confirm the opinion. Let me give it here. The worst of all Armenian revolutionary newspapers is the "Hentchag" ("Sounder"), now issued in Athens. A batch of 320 copies of this paper, with some thirty letters inclosed therein in two envelopes for Armenians at Marsovan and Amassia, were, on the 16th instant, seized here by the authorities. They were being landed by the mate of the Pan-Hellenic steamer "Sparta." The packet was addressed to Arzoglou, the Company's agent at Samsoon, a young Greek with an Armenian mother. He held or holds other steam-ship agencies; that of the Turkish Courdjee, and that of the British Westcott and Laurence.

He has, moreover, been acting of late as Consular Agent for the United States. Both he and his father are merchants of the first rank at Samsoon, with extensive trade connections in the interior. It is characteristic of his Excellency, Cadri Bey, that he should have, in this, ordered the authorities at Samsoon to put them not under arrest, but under police surveillance, pending their trial at Trebizond.

The consequences of the discovery has been the display of much greater vigilance on the part of the local authorities. People are now more closely watched, and letters are intercepted.

Let me conclude with one more remark. I shall put it in a single sentence, and in the form of a question.

Is not the culpability of these Armenians who, in the midst of danger, work for

their cause, much more pardonable than the criminality of those Armenians who, in all security abroad, incite the minds and hearts of their fellow-countrymen to useless turmoil and violence?

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 44.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, April 3, 1893.*

LATE on the 1st instant your Excellency's cyphered telegram reached me referring to mine of the 27th March and wishing me to give, if possible, my own estimate of the number of Armenians actually in prison in my own district.

I at once replied by wire to the effect that by the Austrian mail my despatch of the 28th March would have been received by your Excellency, reporting the number as none for the Vilayet of Trebizond and 550 for that of Sivas.

However unwilling I may be to assume responsibility as regards the trustworthiness of Mr. Spadaro's estimate, I may in fairness to that gentleman remark that his figures taken in the aggregate are comparatively moderate. Mr. Spadaro indeed seems to understand the necessity of sifting well what he hears before he makes his information officially known through this Consulate. This will be seen from the annexed notes giving the substance of a despatch received from Samsoon early in March by the Austrian Consul-General at Trebizond.

My own sources of information as regards the affairs of the Sivas Vilayet have been reduced to *nil* by the risk of having one's letters and telegrams made known in undesirable quarters. I am as a consequence unable to give the independent estimate required of me.

Khalil Pasha, the present Vali of Sivas, happens to be a friend of mine. He would, I believe, do much to please me for the sake of old times in Thessaly. I refrain, however, from writing to him on the subject, as in the present state of affairs the discovery of such a correspondence with a Consul whose jurisdiction over his vilayet is not recognized by the Porte, may tend in some way to compromise his Excellency's position.

Letters from Christians in these parts are few and far between. All political hints therein are studiously avoided with such words alone indicative of troubled times as he, or she, or they, are well. Letters from Turks, however, are more to the purpose. Akif Effendi, the local Inspector of Mines, received a letter dated the end of February giving the number of Armenians arrested at Amassia and Marsovan as 800. The figure is an enormous one, and if it were ever near the truth, about 89 per cent. must have been released soon enough, for in Mr. Spadaro's estimate we find seventy plus twenty as imprisoned in the two towns with only thirty liberated in that of Marsovan. That several hundreds, some believe thousands, are in custody is accepted here as an unquestionable fact. Even the Vali himself, who has also nothing better than hearsay to go upon, believes the number to be about 2,000 for all the inland provinces of Asia Minor.

So much for the Sivas Vilayet. Let me now come to that of Trebizond. There is one case which I am going to give here in full detail. It will serve to illustrate the nature of the persecution, and to show up at the same time the conduct of incapable if not unscrupulous officials.

On Easter Sunday—that is, the day after the dispatch of my answer to your Excellency's telegram—I was informed that an Armenian suspect from Charshamba had been brought here and cast into prison. I at once called on the Vali, and asked him again in a friendly manner whether there were really any Armenian political prisoners within this vilayet. Cadri Bey replied that there was one man only about whom he was not quite sure whether he was in custody or not. Suspected of conspiracy by Khosref Bey, Colonel of the Sivas Gendarmerie, his books and papers were seized, and sent here as compromising documents.

His Excellency promised to look into the matter carefully, and if he found the man innocently imprisoned, to have him speedily released. On the following morning I received Cadri Bey's message to the effect that the man was in gaol on apparently inadmissible evidence of guilt, and that he intends sending him back to Samsoon, with

instructions to the Governor there to set him free at once, and not to act in future with so little judgment in matters of this kind.

As I did not think his Excellency's decision, under existing circumstances, would be productive of much good to the man, I saw him again, and persuaded him to release the prisoner without further delay, on bail.

The person who has thus been liberated from the Trebizond prison is a certain Garabet Shirimian; a Protestant Armenian, 28 years of age, born at Vizir-Keuprou, and educated in the American College at Marsovan. Some seven months ago he had left his home, wife, and family, to exercise the profession of teacher at Ouloupounar, a small Protestant village within the confines of this province, in the district of Samsoon, and in the Canton of Charshamba. On the 2nd March the Captain of the village gendarmes called him up to read some writings, while his house was being searched for compromising papers. This was done on the instigation of Khosref Boy, who, it will be remembered, Mr. Spardaro terms an "ex-brigand," and Dr. Jowett describes as an officer with a "bad record."

A New Year's hymn for 1888 was found among the papers. It seems to be a copy of some fifty printed and sung more than four years ago in a Protestant gathering at Marsovan. The hymn is in Turkish words, with Armenian characters. It is purely religious in expressions in all but its refrain, which does not harmonize with the context. This is in English, as follows: "Onward, brave soldier, on the battlefield; Christ is Commander ('Saraskir') on earth as He is in Heaven." Now, ignorant Moslems, taught from their childhood to fight for their religion, are apt to construe the meaning of these lines as sinister in aim and militant in spirit. Their error of judgment is perhaps pardonable, but not so the doubts of public officers, who ought to be at least somewhat superior to the people in knowledge.

Whether it was with a purpose or not, the poor teacher was at once arrested as a political criminal, conveyed to Charshamba, thence to Samsoon, and then on to Trebizond, where, for some eight days, he had been forgotten in gaol.

Luckier, perhaps, than many other innocent Armenians, his release has been obtained, and this only after being kept a whole month in ignorance of his crime and in suspense of his fate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Notes from a Samsoon Despatch received at Trebizond, March 2, 1893.

Marsovan: 140 Armenians arrested.

Amassia, Hadji-keui, and Choroma: many arrests.

Yuzgat: among 100 arrested are Pappazian, Adamian, and other Notables.

Sivas: search and arrests. Police said to have found man who posted up placards; he is a Kurd of the Hamidieh regiment, who became informer to save himself.

Kaisarieh: two days of complete anarchy. People in revolt, shops, &c., closed, authorities powerless. Fight between Turks and Armenians; the latter beaten. From six to seven hundred Turks broke open gaol, ill-treated Armenian prisoners, hanging a priest; said to have been instigated by authorities. Many Armenian Notables arrested, and in neighbouring village of Dendi, acts of rapine, outrages on females, cattle-lifting, &c., perpetrated on Armenians. Two or three killed in resistance. Village said to be deserted.

Arabkir: full revolution; no one knows who rules—Turks or Armenians. At Village of Armazan pitched battle between Turks on one side and Armenians helped by Kurds on the other. Turks being defeated applied for a battalion of troops from Sivas. Butchery recommenced; Colonel slain, and revolution spreading around. Some 150 insurgents have retired to mountains with arms and ammunition; Government anxious to conceal all these facts. Posted letters opened, and telegraph messages rejected. Traffic suspended between Samsoon and towns in the interior.

All this reported secretly by private persons.

No. 45.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April* 17, 1893, 3·10 P.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 15th instant, No. 36, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the line in question is that running from Damascus to Birijik, via Aleppo, precisely the same as that which the French Embassy formerly urged. I would refer your Lordship to my despatch No. 31 of the 28th January last.

No. 46.

M. Tchéraz to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received April* 19.)

Milord, *33, de Vere Gardens, Londres, ce* 18 *Avril*, 1893.

ALORS que par suite de la négligence de la Porte à appliquer l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, le sang Arménien coule à Erzéroum, à Van, à Bitlis, à Zeytoun, à Arab-Kir, à Karpout, à Marsovan, à Césarée, à Amassia, à Yuzgat, et ailleurs, et que les Arméniens attendent avec la plus mortelle anxiété la convocation d'une Conférence Internationale pour la solution d'une crise aussi terrible, la Porte ne se fait aucun scrupule de violer un autre Article du Traité, l'Article LXII.

Les électeurs de la communauté Arménienne, réunis au Couvent d'Etchmiadzin, avaient procédé, le 17 Mars, à l'élection du Patriarche suprême de l'Église d'Arménie, et Mgr. l'Archevêque Negrditch Khrimian avait été élu à l'unanimité des voix. Le siège Patriarchal se trouvant aujourd'hui sur le territoire Russe, le résultat de l'élection a été soumis à la haute approbation de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, qui s'est empressée de confirmer la nomination de Mgr. Khrimian. Comme ce Prélat est sujet Ottoman, il ne restait plus que la formalité de le relever de cette sujétion, et c'est ce que la Porte refuse de faire, de sorte que l'élu du peuple et de l'Église reste en captivité depuis onze mois à Jérusalem.

Votre Seigneurie n'ignore pas combien les Arméniens sont attachés à leur religion, qu'ils ont bien souvent protégée, les armes à la main, contre les attaques du Mazdéïsme et de l'Islamisme. Ils ont toujours exercé le droit d'élire librement leurs Patriarches, et ce premier essai d'intervention dans leurs affaires religieuses ne saurait les laisser indifférents. L'opposition du Calife, qui n'avait fait aucune objection avant l'élection, blesse profondément le sentiment religieux des Arméniens, puisqu'ils croient que c'est le Saint-Esprit qui inspire aux électeurs le choix du Chef de l'Église. Mes compatriotes n'ont qu'une voix pour protester contre cette violation d'un antique droit et de la liberté religieuse, si solennellement proclamée par les Traités de Paris et de Berlin.

Tout en prenant la liberté de rappeler à votre Seigneurie, ainsi qu'aux Ministres des autres Puissances Signataires de l'Acte de Berlin, le paragraphe de l'Acte LXII où il est déclaré que "la liberté et la pratique extérieure de tous les cultes sont assurées à tous, et aucune entrave ne pourra être apportée, soit à l'organisation hiérarchique des différentes communions, soit à leurs rapports avec leurs Chefs spirituels," j'ose lui rappeler également que l'Angleterre compte parmi ses sujets des Chrétiens qui appartiennent à l'Église Arménienne et qui espère que votre Seigneurie voudra bien intervenir auprès de la Porte dans une question aussi délicate et dont la négligence pourrait avoir de graves conséquences pour la paix de l'Orient.

(Signé) MINAS TCHÉRAZ.
Ex-Délégué Arménien à Londres et au Congrès de Berlin.

No. 47.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 99.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 20, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 114 of the 31st ultimo regarding the imprisonment of M. Thoumaian, of the American College at Marsovan.

I approve of the terms of your reply to Mme. de Visme's letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 48.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 13, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora, reporting the release of 150 Armenian prisoners, and stating that, in addition to the twenty-five Armenians awaiting their trial, there are five others charged with brigandage, whom the Government are endeavouring to identify with the so-called revolutionary movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, April* 7, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Government has released about 150 Armenian prisoners from the local prison. These men, to all outward appearances, have been released unconditionally, but a close watch is being kept over them.

There now remain in the local prison about twenty-five Armenians charged with the offence of high treason and resisting the authorities, and who are to be put on their trial for these offences, but owing to a difference between the Turkish and Christian members of the Court, which is to examine into the charges against these twenty-five men, their trial has been delayed. The released men were not tried in the public Court, but were, as I have already mentioned in my previous despatch, interrogated during night time, this unusual proceeding, according to official version, is owing to the exigencies of the Ramazan fast, but other prisoners incarcerated for other offences have not been so interrogated.

Owing to the meagre prison accommodation in Angora, some Armenians were imprisoned at Yuzgat; I learn that the majority of the men confined have been released.

In addition to the twenty-five Armenians awaiting their trial, there are five others recently captured, and who were brought from Cesarea a few days ago charged with the offence of brigandage.

These latter are not to be confounded with the former at present. The particulars of the offence with which these men are charged, are as follows.

During the summer of last year the post was attacked near to Cesarea, one of the escort was killed and another wounded, and about £ T. 800, mostly Government money, was stolen. The head of the band assumed the name of "Schullo," a name well known to the authorities as an audacious Turkish brigand.

The authorities were under the impression that the band consisted of Turks and Kurds, but it now appears they were Armenians, the head of whom assumed a Turkish name, being himself an Armenian.

These men, for the present, are charged with the offence of brigandage, but the Government is endeavouring to identify them also with the so-called revolutionary movement of the Armenians.

As soon as the Court of Inquiry is definitely constituted, I shall at once inform you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 49.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received April 21.*)

(No. 142.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 15, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches in regard to the treatment of Armenians in the Vilayets of Angora, Adana, Trebizond, Sivas, and Van.

Your Lordship will observe from Mr. Consul Longworth's despatch that the local authorities at Trebizond and Samsoun do not appear to have as yet received any instructions to release the Armenian prisoners, while Mr. Vice-Consul Newton reports that those released at Angora were sent to their respective districts under police surveillance.

Mr. Jago is enabled to report complete quiet in the Vilayet of Adana, though all the six Bishops, whose dioceses are comprised within the Patriarchate of Cis, have either fled or are in prison or exile.

Mr. Vice-Consul Devey alludes to the rumoured ill-treatment of those confined in prison at Van; and the number who are under arrest at that place seems to be considerable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, April* 10, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch of the 4th instant, and confirm mine of the 7th, which will have anticipated some of your inquiries.

I am now preparing a detailed account of the Armenian movement from the beginning up to date, and am waiting for authentic information from Cesarea and Yuzgat. The Government authorities are most reticent, and when they do volunteer any information very little credence can be attached to it; consequently, I have to depend upon my own resources.

In my despatch of the 7th instant I mentioned that a close watch was being kept over the released Armenians. I may add that these men were sent to their respective districts, accompanied by the Bimbashi of Cesarea and other police officials. These men were sent away from here during night time, no doubt with the object of preventing any information getting abroad.

From the fact of these released men being sent away during night time, and accompanied by armed police, does not appear that their release is unconditional, and that they are free from further suspicion.

The Armenians remaining here have been in prison more than a month, yet their trial has not commenced, owing probably to Ramazan and the hitch in the constitution of the Court.

I shall keep you currently informed of the progress of this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Consul Jago to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Aleppo, April* 3, 1893.

REFERRING to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, reporting on the treatment of Armenians in the Vilayet of Aleppo, I have now the honour to state that, as regards the Vilayet of Adana, since the arrival of the new Vali, Nessouih Bey, on the 20th January last, Armenians are no longer molested or oppressed, and none have been arrested or proceeded against for so-called political offence.

In the prisons of Adana, the chief town of the vilayet, there are twenty-eight Armenians, none elsewhere; of these four are (merchants) of Mersina, fourteen

of Hadjin, three students of the Theological College of Cis, three of Adana, and four of Pajas.

With the exception of those of Hadjin and Pajas, the other ten are detained on suspicion only, or for being in possession of forbidden books, or a gun. Their cases are being proceeded with, but very slowly, before the Courts.

Of the six Bishops, whose dioceses are comprised within the Patriarchate of the Catholicos of Cilicia, resident at Cis, none remain, all being either in prison, exile, or in flight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, April* 10, 1893.

YOUR Excellency's telegram of the 4th instant was decyphered by me to mean as follows:—

I was to report on the action taken with respect to the amnesty which the Turkish Government informed your Excellency had been granted to Armenians accused of having posted up seditious placards.

I have now to state that Cadri Bey has not as yet received from the Porte any official intimation on the subject. This may be because the measure in its scope may well exclude the Vilayet of Trebizond, concerning as it does only the inland districts of Asia Minor.

On the 6th instant, that is by the first mail, I wrote to Dr. Jewett at Marsovan and to Mr. Spadaro at Samsoun to put me in possession of the information required by your Excellency. I did not wire to them for fear that such telegrams sent *en clair* may possibly raise premature hopes among Armenians, and confusion among Turks. I refrained to do so, moreover, lest the pardon vouchsafed to the prisoners should happen to be of a character wanting in the publicity of an ordinary Proclamation.

From Mr. Spadaro's despatch, copy of which is herewith inclosed, it is evident that up to the 8th instant no news of such an amnesty had reached Samsoun from the interior. The one case of release mentioned by him will scarcely serve to show the working of a somewhat general measure, be it that of clemency, pacification, or reconciliation.

I would beg here to refer to another matter bearing somewhat on the same subject. Your Excellency has been made acquainted by me with my answer to Lord Rosebery's telegram of the 29th March respecting M. Thoumaïan. My reply, dated the 31st ultimo, was worded to the effect that the individual in question had, according to Dr. Jewett's telegram, been removed from Marsovan to Angora, an assertion which made me add the hint that he was probably being conveyed to Constantinople. I since heard that he and his colleague of the Marsovan College, M. Kayaian, as well as some twenty other Armenians, had, without doubt, been taken to Angora *en route* to the capital. Our Samsoun Agent, however, in the last paragraph of his despatch, now reports that M. Thoumaïan has been taken back to the Marsovan prison, a statement which I have this day telegraphed to Lord Rosebery, as well as to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 49.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le 8 Avril*, 1893.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 6 de ce mois dont le contenu a eu toute mon attention.

Je puis vous affirmer, en réponse à votre demande d'informations, qu'aucune amnistie n'a encore été accordée aux Arméniens accusés d'avoir pris part dans l'affaire des placards

séditieux et aux autres événements récents qui se sont produits dans l'intérieur, au moins dans le Vilayet de Sivas.

J'ignore jusqu'à présent si un ordre pareil a été transmis de Constantinople, mais tout semble faire croire, en cas d'affirmatif, que la teneur ne doit pas correspondre exactement aux déclarations qui ont été faites à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur, car il paraît impossible, *à priori*, que des instructions formelles émanant de haut lieu ne soient pas suivies d'une exécution immédiate par ceux qui sont chargés de les appliquer.

Il se pourrait toutefois que des mesures de clémence aient été prises dans le Vilayet d'Angora dont relève Yuzgat, où, en effet, le nommé Donikian qui avait été arrêté, a télégraphié, il y a trois jours, à son frère négociant établi en notre ville, qu'il avait été relâché. C'est l'unique cas qui soit parvenu à ma connaissance.

Par suite de la surveillance excessivement sévère qui est exercée par les autorités Turques, les nouvelles de l'intérieur ne parviennent plus à Samsoun que verbalement et souvent par ouï dire. Dans ces conditions il devient aujourd'hui fort difficile d'être tenu promptement et surtout très exactement au courant des événements qui ont lieu.

Mr. Newberry qui a, paraît-il, terminé son enquête à Marsofoun, est arrivé hier à Samsoun dans l'après-midi avec Djémal Bey, et s'est rendu directement à bord de "l'Arménie" de la Compagnie Paquet qui partait. L'on prétend qu'il ne s'est rendu aussi promptement à Constantinople que pour obtenir du Gouvernement Ottoman à l'occasion des fêtes de Pâques le relâchement des personnes incarcérées à la suite des derniers troubles.

L'on parle de plusieurs crimes et assassinats commis dans l'intérieur. N'ayant pas de renseignements précis à cet égard je m'abstiens de vous en entretenir, mais je puis porter à votre connaissance le crime suivant commis à Yuzgat.

Le Sieur Bedros Hagopian, ex-huissier du Gouvernement Ottoman à Yuzgat, âgé de 45 ans, a été tué, il y a quelques jours, étranglé chez lui par cinq ou six Musulmans de son voisinage, dont le chef se nomme Pathaghimoglou Eumer.

Ces individus se sont introduits nuitamment dans la demeure du nommé Hagopian, ont assailli sa femme, et lui ont crevé un œil. Ils ont, en outre, violé sa jeune fille âgée de 12 à 13 ans, et maltraité un petit enfant âgé de 2 ans qu'ils ont ensuite laissé le croyant mort. L'enfant a été rappelé à la vie après le départ des malfaiteurs.

J'apprends aujourd'hui que M. Thomayian, qui avait été dirigé sur Constantinople avec plusieurs autres Arméniens, a été ramené à Marsofoun, où il se trouve actuellement emprisonné. M. Thomayian est revenu à Marsofoun pendant le séjour dans cette ville de Mr. Newberry, qui avait demandé aux autorités locales des explications sur la détermination prise de diriger les prisonniers sur Angora, et très probablement Constantinople.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SPADARO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Devey to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Van, March* 28, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 25th instant.

About ten days ago I was assured from a trustworthy source that there were 212 Armenians in prison, entirely on charges more or less remotely of a "political" or seditious character, or of a nature indicating racial animosities. Some few Armenians have been arrested since then, and one or two have been released. There has been a recrudescence of frequent arrests of small batches of this community, going on now for the greater part of a year, in fact since Mr. Fitzmaurice reported the death of two Moslems killed close to Sikkeh village near this town; a homicide, which he believed was unjustly imputed to these Armenian villagers. Further, instances have occurred where Armenians out of spite have denounced their neighbours and fellows as guilty of sedition and malpractices, for example, in Zivistan, Mirek, and Hazara villages, and a willing ear is lent to such tales, often baseless.

The more important cases are:—

1. Murder of the policeman Nouri; the trial of eleven accused is now proceeding.

2. Murder of two Moslems in the village Zizans, and consequent arrest of a number of Armenians of Kuchet village in Shattakli for inciting or abetting the crime.

3. Murder of a Turkish Lieutenant, whose body was found in the Bohtan River.

4. Projected attempt upon the Vali's life by Armenians of Evereh village.

5. Charges of sheltering fugitives from justice or aiding their flight.

Complaints are made of the long lapse of time individuals remain in custody, and rumours are current of maltreatment or actual torture of those in prison. As to the latter count, responsibility rests upon the "Procureur-Général" in great degree, whom I cannot but consider unfit for the post, which he has occupied only a short time, at all events in this vilayet. The conduct of Nouri Effendi, Chief Commissary of Police, is also animadverted on.

I add a list of persons who have become ill or died in prison lately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 49.

List of Armenians taken ill and dying in Van Prison.

ASBADUR, Mudir of Hazara village, fell ill in prison, died elsewhere.
Boyn Khanjian Agob, ditto.
Shattakli Bedros, ditto.
Shadvorian Haji Misak, fell ill and died in prison.
Dikran, son of last-mentioned, ditto.
Ashjian Panos, ditto.
Mirzayan Nishan, fell ill in prison, was removed the 26th instant, and died yesterday.
Semorjian Ohannes, was carried home from prison to-day, seriously ill.
Movses, son of Mohsi Sahag, was removed from prison at Shattakh and died shortly after.
A villager from Havatzor is said to have died in prison here some weeks ago.
Nazaret, son of the above-mentioned Shadvorian Haji Misak; Shaljian Ohannes; Bornazian Panos: are reported now ill in Van prison.

No. 50.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April* 22, 1893, 10·45 A.M.

I ENTIRELY agree in the proposal in your Lordship's telegram No. 40 of yesterday, and will instruct Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora accordingly.

No. 51.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 109.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 26, 1893.

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me to-day a telegram which he had received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 23rd instant, in regard to M. Thoumaian's arrest and detention.

The telegram stated that M. Thoumaian was one of the principal authors of the revolutionary placards; that he had been denounced to the authorities and that preparations were being made for his trial; and that his guilt having been recognized by the United States' Legation, and by the authorities of the American College at Marsovan, his name has already been removed from the books of the college.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 52.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 151. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 21, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the eve of Mr. Newberry's (Secretary of the United States' Legation here) departure, on a mission of inquiry at Marsovan, with reference to the burning of a portion of the American school there, I told him that I should deem it a great favour if, on his return, he would let me hear his views on the general state of affairs in the districts he might visit with regard to the condition of the Armenian population. Mr. Newberry has drawn up a Confidential Report which he has addressed to Mr. Thompson, the United States' Minister, and which the latter has been so good as to communicate to me.

I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of it, and your Lordship will observe that Mr. Newberry draws a less unfavourable picture of the condition in the districts of Trebizond and Sivas of the Armenians than is generally depicted.

Mr. Newberry ascribes most of the trouble which has recently occurred at Marsovan to the conduct of certain Turkish officials there whom he names, and some of whom he also states have been removed from their posts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Mr. Newberry to Mr. Thompson.

Sir, *Legation of the United States, Constantinople, April 12, 1893.*

AS is well known to you, there have been current for some time past rumours of an aggravated persecution of Armenian Christians in the Provinces of Trebizond and Sivas by Turkish officials. These rumours had gained great prominence through frequent allusions in the European press. Before leaving for that district of Asia Minor, I was earnestly requested by Sir Clare Ford, the British Ambassador, to give him upon my return a résumé of the state of affairs. With your permission I have so done verbally, and herewith I have the honour to report, more in detail, my observations.

My first stopping place was Samsoon, where I remained three days. I called upon the Armenian clergy, and also met a number of Armenian Notables. Their statements to me bore no complaints whatever, that their religious services were unmolested, and excepting an occasional interference with the importation of religious books, everything was well.

The Protestant clergyman stated that his people were entirely satisfied in the country neighbouring Samsoon.

At Kavak, Province of Sivas, population about 5,000, all parties expressed themselves as satisfied. A small prison is here, but at the time of my visit contained no inmates. Highwaymen have of late sadly interfered with the mail.

At Kaysa, 30 miles from Marsovan, population about 15,000, Armenians were extremely satisfied with Turkish administration.

At Ladik, population about 7,000, I found the municipal officials all Armenians; they had had no trouble of any kind, no one had been arrested, and their religious observances were respected.

At Marsovan, population about 25,000, I remained some ten days. Here matters were greatly complicated. I found that there existed, and still exists, the headquarters of a Committee, revolutionary and anarchistic in its tendencies; they are manufacturing dynamite bombs, of which I brought away two as specimens; they have a storage of rifles and ammunition, and agents and branch Committees at Amasia, Caesarea, Tokat, Chorum, and Angora. That all this exists I have indisputable proof. I have talked with members of this Committee as to their intentions and wishes, but as I am not a member of the Turkish police force, I consider it imprudent to give further details.

In conclusion, I beg to state that, on the night of the 5th January last, revolutionary placards were posted in these several villages (for originals and translations see Appendices 1 and 2). The provincial authorities had become fully aware of this Society through its betrayal by two Armenians, and these same two men were most surely assassinated by their own people for their treason; both were found dead in the street shot through the head, and I prominently noticed that in all my conversation with Armenians these two men were here referred to, and no intimation suggested that the Turks had killed them. I also brought out the horrible fact that persons unknown had disinterred the dead bodies of some Turkish women the day after their burial, disgustingly mutilating and disfiguring them, leaving them along the highway.

The posting of the placards aroused the Government, and from the information in their possession wholesale arrests followed, probably to the number of 700 or more. These arrests gave rise to the story of persecutions. That a large number of innocent people were gathered in is most probable, and through your representations at the Porte I understand that 500 or 600 of these have been released. It was unfortunate for American interests that included in these arrests were two native professors of the American College at Marsovan; the evidence against them in the possession of the Turkish Government was laid before me. I also invited Dr. Riggs, the Head Master of the college, to give it a careful perusal, which he did; he then, in the presence of the Procureur Impérial and myself, declared that the evidence as presented was sufficient to cast the gravest doubts upon MM. Thoumayan and Kayayan; and that until the Turkish Tribunal had passed upon their innocence or guilt, he should recommend to the trustees of the college that their names should be erased from the college register.

The Armenians in this district complained bitterly of the arbitrary acts of Hosref Pasha, Chief of the Gendarmerie of the district.

The local Governor of Marsovan, the Malmudiri of Marsovan, the President of the Municipality of Marsovan, one Kaleb Effendi, the Chief of Police of Marsovan, one Ibrahim Gukman. This last named, and also the local Governor, have already been dismissed. All these men have shown a vindictiveness against Christian interests, and their presence in the province is a constant menace to public security.

I would also beg to include in the same category the Juge d'Instruction and Procureur Impérial of Amasia; all these are dangerous men. In conclusion, I can only conscientiously state that the so-called persecutions of Christians in this district consisted in the arrests of a large number of people as suspected members of an Anarchist Society, and which in my opinion, with the knowledge I have of the Society and its intentions, were probably justified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. NEWBERRY.

No. 53.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 24, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the negotiations which were being carried on between Mr. Thompson, the United States' Minister here, and the Sublime Porte, on the subject of the incident which took place last February at Marsovan, in Asia Minor, of the burning of part of the American girls' school there have now terminated.

My American colleague informs me that the Ottoman Government have agreed to pay the full value of the building which was destroyed, and will, moreover, issue immediate permission for it to be rebuilt.

An Imperial Iradé will also be issued for the carrying on the work of the school, and will contain a provision for its efficient protection.

The demand which had been made by the American Minister of the Ottoman Government, that the guilty parties should be punished, has not been waived, and steps will be taken to bring them to justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 54.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 158.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 24, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Longworth regarding the release of Armenian prisoners.

Mr. Acting Consul Fitzmaurice has telegraphed from Erzeroum, under date of the 19th instant, to the effect that some trouble seems to have occurred at Vartennis, a place near Moush. It is said that soldiers from Bitlis searched for arms at Vartennis, and discovered a few guns. The soldiers are reported to have used cruelty and torture to force the villagers to disclose the arms which were still supposed to be secreted. Mr. Fitzmaurice further reports that it is rumoured that numbers are imprisoned, and that the Armenian women, in despair, have set fire to their own houses.

I have also the honour to transmit a despatch from Mr. Fitzmaurice giving an account of an outrage by Kurds at a village named Avzot, in the neighbourhood of Moush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, April 15, 1893.*

IN connection with my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of one from Mr. Spadaro dated yesterday, reporting to have heard the release of the Armenian prisoners at Yuzgat, without any news having reached Samsoon as to how the amnesty is being carried out in the Sivas Vilayet.

Mr. Spadaro in his despatch mentions the imprisonment at Samsoon of an Armenian on political grounds. I had heard of the case, and have drawn the attention of his Excellency Cadri Bey to it. The Vali promised me to look into the matter carefully, and have the man released if his offence proved to be of a mild character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoon, le 14 Avril, 1893.*

COMME suite à ma lettre du 8 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer qu'il n'y a pas encore de nouvelles du Vilayet de Sivas en ce qui concerne l'amnestie accordée aux Arméniens qui se sont compromis dans la question relative aux placards séditieux.

Toutefois il est certain, aujourd'hui, que ceux de Yuzgat ont été relâchés. D'autre part j'ai su hier au soir que son Excellence le Vali de Trébizonde a télégraphié au Mutessarif de Samsoon pour lui demander s'il y avait des Arméniens arrêtés à Samsoon et le Djanik.

Il lui a été répondu qu'un seul Arménien, un jeune homme de 19 ans, se trouvait en prison. Cet Arménien a été arrêté il y a quelques jours pour avoir employé dans une lettre particulière saisie, une expression qui a éveillé paraît-il les soupçons de l'autorité.

J'ai reçu votre lettre du 8 Avril dont j'ai noté exactement le contenu. Je m'y conformerai à l'avenir.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SPADARO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 54.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, April 15, 1893.*

I HAVE lately been informed of a regrettable incident which has occurred in the neighbourhood of Moush, in connection with the Vartennis affair reported upon by Mr. Consul Lloyd in his despatch of the 21st August, 1890, and by Mr. Hampson in his despatch of the 16th January, 1891.

During the month of March just past (I have been unable to learn the precise date) two Armenians, who had been condemned for the Vartennis affair but had managed to escape, returned to the village of Avzot, in the Moush district. Being recognized as the wanted fugitives from justice, information was given to the authorities, and some zaptiehs came to arrest them. The two Armenians tried to escape, whereupon the zaptiehs fired, shooting one of them. The other Armenian then turned round and fired his revolver at the zaptiehs, of whom one was shot dead. The Armenian, amid the ensuing confusion, effected his escape.

Word that an Armenian had killed a zaptieh was at once passed among the neighbouring Kurds, who assembled at Avzot, destroyed all they could in the village, and put to death a number of Armenians. The number of the latter reported to have been killed would give the affair the proportions of a regular massacre. Without giving credence to such reports, and judging from fairly reliable accounts, I have but small doubt that a considerable number of Armenians met their death at the hands of the Kurds. As, however, the roads are still closed by snow, it is very difficult to get accurate details on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 55.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 73.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April 29, 1893, 3·30 P.M.*

THE trial of the Armenian prisoners at Angora will, I learn, take place on the 3rd May.

A full report of the proceedings will be furnished by the British Vice-Consul.

No. 56.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 160.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 26, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Longworth, inclosing a letter from Dr. Jewett, United States' Consul at Sivas, in regard to recent events at Marsovan.

Your Lordship will observe that Dr. Jewett is not satisfied that the evidence produced against M. Thoumayian is conclusive, and is apparently of opinion that the seditious placards were not the work of Armenians.

I have as yet learnt nothing definite as to the date or the place of the trial of the prisoners. It is now reported that it will not take place at Angora, but I will take an early opportunity of ascertaining the truth of this rumour, and will also call the attention of the Sublime Porte to the report that the prisoners are being maltreated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, April 20, 1893.*

I BEG to inclose herewith copy of a registered letter from Dr. Jewett, dated Marsovan, the 7th April, which only reached me this day, though its envelope bore no visible marks of having been opened.

Dr. Jewett, it will be seen, believes that the seditious placards were put up by Turks. He has, however, no evidence of this against Softas in particular. I myself, in my despatch of the 28th March, did not hint at more than a possibility that these students of theology had lent themselves to the handiwork, and this only on the incitement of better educated and more influential Mahommedans.

Memdouch Bey, the ex-Vali of Sivas, appears to be essentially a politician of that category. A short inadequate description of his character will be found in my despatch of the 2nd January, to which let me add that he is evidently of the new school, and has a knowledge of the French language with Europeanized ideas.

Dr. Jewett seems to think that the Government, in connivance with Memdouch Bey, were the originators of the placards. That it was really a deliberate trick on the part of the State may, I think, be dismissed as inadmissible, for the very wording of the placards so insolent and so disloyal cannot but preclude the acceptance of such a conjecture.

Not so, however, as regards Memdouch Bey himself. The ex-Vali was thought unfit to govern for unavowed and unknown reasons. He endeavoured latterly to maintain himself in office by creating or rather bringing to the fore an Armenian question. He was recalled all the same, and his successor, Khalil Pasha, denounced his statements and released his suspects. Memdouch Bey left Sivas on the 17th December, and spent ten days near Marsovan. About a month after his dismissal the placards were put up. How and why was it done is a mystery upon which a little light is thrown by Dr. Jewett's letter.

It seems to me that there is some connection detectable in the facts enumerated by him with what I may call a latent spirit of discontent among Mussulmans. The revolutionary faction in the capital has doubtless feelers in the provinces. Among them are officials who have thoroughly imbibed the wish for a constitutional Government. Thus the disappointed can easily and safely join the league of the disaffected. May it not be likely that one of these secret agents is the Malmudir or Accountant-in-chief of Marsovan? The supporters of the cause may have possibly intrusted him with the task of the placards. He is said to have been at Constantinople for three months, and on his return two months before the disturbance to have lived in complete seclusion. With this man who, I hear, without being able to find out his name, is exceptionally accomplished for a Turk, Memdouch Bey spent a considerable time. The ex-Vali may have only then enlisted in the ranks of the disaffected. Anyhow, high functionaries in disgrace may well be somewhat exacting, and he may have possibly hastened prematurely the issuing of the placards, and this for his own ends, namely, to prove the existence among Armenians of a smouldering revolution. His protégé, Khosrefi Bey, or Pasha, Chief of the Sivas Gendarmerie, with whom he kept up a correspondence, may have been, on the other hand, only too ready to serve him by turning all the blame and consequences of the act upon the Armenian people and the American missionaries.

The latter were perhaps included to avenge the expulsion from the Marsovan College of Memdouch Bey's own son, a youth who as student had drawn a knife on Dr. Melcom, the Professor of Chemistry at the college.

The state of affairs for the immediate successor of Memdouch Bey seems to have been thus considerably aggravated.

The Palace had very probably an inkling of the truth. There were two revolutionary Societies, the Moslem and the non-Moslem, the apparently passive and the apparently active. It was found perhaps not only easier but safer to crush with unwarrantable cruelty as a warning to the other, the one least likely to weaken the Caliphate by causing a stir in the Mussulman world.

I have made these remarks, leaving it entirely to your Excellency to judge whether the view taken by me is a correct one or not, taken as it has been on after all very insufficient corroborative evidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Sir, *Marsovan, April 7, 1893.*

I HAVE completed my investigations into the burning of the college building and charges made against the college. We charge the responsibility of the fire on

the Turkish officials, Hosref Pasha in particular, and prove the charges against the college to be false.

Evidence has been presented which indicates that two of the college teachers, Toumayian and Kayian, are members of a revolutionary Society, but the evidence is based mainly on certain letters signed with fictitious names, which fictitious names are said to be the names of Toumayian and Kayian. Such evidence of course should be thoroughly investigated before the men are condemned. It may be also that the names of these two men were used by the members of the Society in transmitting seditious papers. Schaag, a member of the Society who turned States' evidence, and was afterwards assassinated, said that it was a custom of the Society to put the names of innocent persons inside of letters addressed to members of the Society, so that in case the packages fell into the hands of the Government it would appear that these innocent men were responsible for the package.

I received your telegram inquiring if Toumayian was still in prison, and am curious to know why Lord Rosebery made the inquiry.

During my absence at Samsoon, 20th March, about thirty-five political suspects, including Toumayian and Kayian, were taken away from here, and it was said they were going to be taken to Angora. On the 3rd April they were still at Chorum, twelve hours from here. Before they left, my Dragoman made a protest against their removal on the ground that the Secretary of the Legation, Djamal Bey, from the Office of Foreign Affairs, and myself were soon to return to make investigation. I am told that the prisoners have been subjected to much abuse and hardship at Chorum. The weather was very severe. At first their hands were confined in wooden manacles; afterwards when their hands and wrists got sore, they were chained together in gangs of four or ten with iron collars around the neck; seven were beaten; 163 political prisoners were sent recently from Cesarea to Angora. At Cesarea there have been several riots, but no very serious consequences. Like unpleasant reports come from other places.

Some time ago you asked me if there was any evidence that the placards originated with the softas. I do not know of any, but there is some evidence that the placards were instigated and put up by the Turks. At first I thought it might be the work of Memdouh Bey. He is said to have maintained himself in office as Vali of Sivas, in spite of five dismissals, by claiming that there was a strong Armenian revolutionary party in the vilayet.

The new Vali went to work to disprove his statements, and was liberating Memdouh Bey's suspects. Memdouh Bey seemed likely to be in disgrace. Then the placard business was started. But the wide extent of the disturbance and the boldness of such a movement seemed to make it very probable that Memdouh Bey alone worked the racket.

One might surmise that the Government, knowing there was a secret Armenian revolutionary Society, sent out the placards with Memdouh Bey's help in order to give the Government an excuse for arresting the Armenians and gathering in the revolutionists.

The facts in support of such a theory, which I have heard and more or less substantiated, are briefly as follows:—

1. The men most active in the "investigation," like Hosref Pasha, were Memdouh Bey's creatures and tools.

2. Memdouh Bey stopped near Marsovan for ten days after he was dismissed.

3. Hosref Pasha received many letters from Memdouh Bey about the time of placard disturbance—eight on one occasion.

4. The Malmudir, who acted as Government spy, spent considerable time with Memdouh Bey, spent three months in Constantinople, returned to Marsovan, would not allow his wife, mother, or any servant to live with him for about two months just previous to the posting of the placards. He was a pseudo student at the college, and somewhat familiar with cyclostyle work.

5. The Government has shown great energy in getting evidence in regard to members of the Society, and very little evidence in regard to posting of placards.

6. The Kaïmakam of Marsovan received a telegram from the Mutessarif of Amasia saying placards would be posted, but he took no steps to stop it.

7. Placards appeared repeatedly within an hour or so on the Government House at Marsovan and Amasia.

8. Placards were put up in Circassian villages where there were no Armenians.

9. The Government induced Turks by promises of money to testify that they saw Armenians putting up placards. This I have fully substantiated.

10. An Armenian Beegee reported that he saw a Turk trying to put up placards. The Beegee was imprisoned; the Government took means to prevent our examining him.

11. A Turk was arrested by the Military Governor-General for putting up placards at Sivas.

12. The placards were written in Osmanli Turkish, and appealed to Turks. These facts do not prove the Turkish origin of the placards, but they are, I think, sufficient to arouse a grave suspicion.

I have enjoyed the diversion of these investigations during the past few weeks.

I have observed a few tendencies, which doubtless you have also observed, but I will nevertheless mention them:

A growing tendency to draw the lines much closer around American missionaries and obstruct their work. A tendency to try and implicate graduates of American schools in recent troubles. A strong tendency among the Armenians to exaggerate their troubles and get sympathy and help from foreign Powers. Also direct efforts (like the attempts to burn the Protestant chapel at Sivas) on the part of the Armenians to get the Americans into a broil with the Turkish Government, in hopes that they, the Armenians, would profit thereby.

I hope I have not bored you with my long letter. If there are any facts I can help you to get call on me.

The United States' Minister's letters of instructions to me were stopped for forty days. Please acknowledge this to Sivas. Hope to be there in ten or fifteen days.

Yours respectfully,
(Signed) H. JEWETT.

No. 57.

Foreign Office to Dr. G. Herrick.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1893.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant regarding the cases of Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan.

I am to state that the British Vice-Consul at Angora will report on the trial of those gentlemen, and that as soon as his report is received Lord Rosebery will further consider the appeals made by yourself and others on behalf of Messrs Thoumaian and Kayayan, and whether Her Majesty's Government should interfere in the matter. Meanwhile a copy of your letter will be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 58.

The Rev. G. Herrick, D.D., to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 11.)

My Lord, *London, May 10, 1893.*

ON account of the sudden and prolonged illness of my colleague, the Rev. Mr. Riggs, the paper of which I send you a copy below was long delayed and did not reach me till the day before yesterday. I now send it to your Lordship, with the remark that its significance consists in these two things; first, that it is a complete refutation of the allegation that the authorities of Anatolia College were so far moved by the evidence against Professor Thoumaian that they removed him temporarily from the College; second, that Mr. Riggs wrote the above just after having presented to him, in its full strength, the Government evidence against Professor Thoumaian.

I have only to add that evidence which has reached me since my letter to your Lordship of the 1st instant shows that violent and unlawful means were still resorted to by Turkish officials to secure testimony against Thoumaian up till the 13th April; and I beg to be allowed to confirm my letter of the 1st, kindly acknowledged at your Lordship's order on the 6th, and to be pardoned for adding that, in my judgment, Mr. Newton, of Angora, is an officer of far too low a grade and power of influence to

serve in the conservation of those interests of justice and humanity which Great Britain has vastly greater than sentimental reasons for guarding at the present time.

The two gentlemen, Thoumaian and Kayayan, are the object of a base conspiracy, which it is equally the interest of Great Britain, of the United States, and of the Turkish Ministry to foil.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) GEO. F. HERRICK.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Memoranda regarding the two Teachers, Thoumaian and Kayayan.

1. OUR very intimate connection and acquaintance with these men for many years past gives us a very strong natural leaning towards the position that they are not guilty. At first as our pupils, and later for a long series of years as our fellow-labourers, they have been so constantly under our eye that we have felt that we knew well how to understand them. We have often travelled with them, counselled with them, worshipped with them, and studied them at every conceivable angle. While they are men with a deep and sincere love for their race, it has always seemed to us that they were far *above* such means and courses and methods as those involved in the seditious movements now under investigation. And their solemn and apparently frank and earnest asseverations, made to us when suspicions against them first arose, could not but have great weight with us.

2. It is undeniable that a very serious show of evidence has been accumulated against these men, and there seems to be only one plausible theory on which their innocence can be maintained. Under the circumstances this theory appears so eminently possible, and even probable, that we desire to invite special attention to it. These two men are well-known men, and are known to feel deep interest in the real good of their people. There exists a secret organization of a seditious character among the Armenians here. The members of this Society realize the danger of detection, and recognize the importance of concealing and protecting the head centres of their body, although some of its branches or members may be detected and cut off. They have a grudge against these two men for being Protestants, and for their success in making themselves a position and a name, and perhaps most of all because they have persistently refused to connect themselves with the Society. Hence they deliberately agree upon the diabolical plan to cast the charge upon these two innocent men in case they are pressed to betray the organization. The deception may indeed be the work of a very small number of persons at the centre, who send out their secret instructions in the name of these men, and those who testify may really believe that they have been in correspondence with these teachers, when the fact is far otherwise.

That this theory is not purely an imaginary one is evidenced by a confession made by the notorious "State's evidence" Sahek, who recently met a violent death here in consequence of having betrayed his Society.

Not long since he congratulated a certain Mr. I——, a prominent merchant in Amassia, on the fact that he had thus far escaped trouble in connection with this Society. That gentleman replied that, as he had nothing to do with the Society, he knew no reason why he should be disturbed. Sahek replied, "I know you have nothing to do with the Society, but we use your name as a decoy to divert attention, signing your name to our communications, and instructing our correspondents to address their sealed packages to your name, and then to inclose them to a third party, who knows what that address means.

It is easy to see what trouble poor Mr. I—— would get into if any of these communications were waylaid and intercepted.

This testimony of Sahek is vouched for by respectable merchants in this town, one of them a partner of Mr. I——.

3. During the earlier days of the imprisonment of these two teachers Hosrev Pasha demanded, and they furnished him, specimens of their own handwriting. This was supposably for comparison with documents they already had in hand. It is stated, however, that the afore-mentioned Sahek was skilled in imitating various men's handwriting, and had given remarkable exhibitions of this power on former occasions. The suspicion is hence very naturally aroused that, while that unprincipled man was voluntarily serving as a tool in the hands of Hosrev Pasha, he might not improbably

be employed to construct false documents in imitation of the specimens of handwriting furnished by the teachers.

4. It seems plain that these two teachers, as subjects of the Ottoman Government, will have to be brought to trial before such Tribunal as may be decided upon by the competent authorities. The only thing that we can ask or desire is that rigid justice be done. In view of the relation held by these men to a school established in this land by American citizens, and in view of the requirements of the Berlin Treaty, it would seem not too much to demand that when such trials shall take place the defendants shall be provided with really competent lawyers to give them the fairest possible chance, and that the entire case should be watched and the evidence scrutinized by an adequate Representative or Representatives of the foreign Powers.

5. It may not be unsuitable to add that the way in which these men have been treated in prison, and especially the manner of their removal to Chorum, while yet untried and uncondemned, is not in accordance with the customs of civilized Powers.

(Signed) EDWARD RIGGS.

Marsovan, March 31, 1893.

No. 59.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 12.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Diarbekir, April* 18, 1893.

I BEG leave respectfully to inclose herewith copy of a telegram which I had the honour to address to your Excellency, in cypher, on the 6th instant.

The following are the details regarding Armenians imprisoned on political accusations, which I obtained lately from Kharput, for your Excellency's information.

In Arabkir there are now ten political prisoners, of whom four have been lately arrested on the accusation of having national songs in their possession; besides these, four men were exiled a year ago, without a trial, to Kastamboul, no one being able to obtain any information as to the nature of the charge brought against them. One of them, I am told, died on his arrival there.

In Kharput twenty-five Armenians have been in prison for nearly a year and a-half without being put upon their trial; five of these are from Arabkir villages and one a priest from Chimishgezek. I am informed that the only accusation brought against him was that he gathered a large number of people together, the fact being that he is an earnest and eloquent preacher, and when preaching in the Armenian Church at Egin large congregations used to assemble to hear him, and my informant tells me that he never alluded in his sermons to political subjects. He has been in prison for several months. Besides those above mentioned there are twenty-four other Armenians in the Kharput prison who have been condemned for sedition, and are now undergoing their sentence.

In Egin a lad was sentenced to two years' imprisonment simply for national songs having been found in his house.

Some two months ago, eighteen prisoners—adults and lads—were tried in the Criminal Court at Kharput; six of them were acquitted, and the rest condemned to from eight to ten years' imprisonment. The offences of ten were of so trifling a nature that, I am told, even the Public Prosecutor demanded their release along with the others, stating that he could see no evidence of crime.

As stated in my telegram above mentioned, there are two Armenians imprisoned, on political accusations, in Diarbekir; one was indicted three months since by the Court of First Instance as a political criminal, but he has not yet been put upon his trial. I have seen and examined the document of indictment, and have to state that, in my humble opinion, there is nothing in it that could be construed as evidence of the young man's criminality even from the present point of view of the Government. The other prisoner, who is not examined yet, is rather a doubtful character. Besides these there are in this place seven Armenian political exiles from Pulu (including one priest) who were condemned three years ago by the Criminal Court at Arghani Maden; after being three years in prison there they were exiled here to complete the term of their sentence, which is seven years.

With your Excellency's permission I have to state that the Government has undeniable right to be vigilant in the case and arrest and punish such as are found inciting the Armenians, and propagating seditious opinions against the lawful govern-

ment of the country, and it must be admitted that such reckless men, though few, are to be found among the Armenians, but I am afraid that the zeal, or other motives, of the local officials overstep the very instructions they receive time after time from higher authorities on the subject.

I beg respectfully to remark that I do not see any difference between now and former years in the general treatment of the Armenians in this vilayet; no special oppressive measures are directed against them, and I believe the same is true with regard to the Kharput Province, with the exception, perhaps, in supplying passports—those especially for sea-ports. This is, I suppose, to prevent their going to the United States of America, where a very large number of Armenians from the Kharput region have emigrated within the last few years. But the fact remains that the Armenians in general are in constant apprehension, either with or without cause, of suddenly having their houses, books, and papers searched, and of being on some trifling pretext imprisoned and, perhaps, condemned as political exiles.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Sir Clare Ford.

(Telegraphic.) *Diarbekir, April* 6, 1893.

YOUR Excellency's telegram.

Two Armenian prisoners at Diarbekir, on political accusation, and seven exiles from Muden. At Kharput prisoners, I believe, forty or fifty; in Arabkir not many. I shall try to obtain full details from last-mentioned places for your Excellency's information.

No. 60.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 166.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 20, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 10th January last, in which I transmitted to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, reporting on a rumour that a Latin Ecclesiastical Conference would be held at Jerusalem this year, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Rheims, I have now the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch on the same subject which I have received from Mr. Consul Dickson, stating that it is currently reported that the 15th proximo is the date fixed for its meeting.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Consul Dickson to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Jerusalem, April* 11, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch, Confidential, of the 22nd December last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that it is currently reported that the Conference of the Latin Clergy ("Congrès Eucharistique"), to be presided over by a French Cardinal, will be held here on the 15th proximo, but that no French Bishops will attend. The Archbishop of Rheims, who is to preside, will, it is stated, be here shortly, and already the Greek Catholic Patriarch of Antioch, Mgr. Grégoire, has arrived in order to take part in the proceedings. I have been assured that the deliberations will be confined to purely Church matters; but, as far as I can gather,

the meeting of the Conference is not looked upon favourably by either the Greek Orthodox Church or the other Eastern Churches who are not in communion with that of Rome.

I shall have the honour to report further to your Excellency in reference to this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 61.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 167. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 1, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133 of the 10th ultimo, suggesting that Mr. Consul Graves should go to his post at Erzeroum overland, in order to obtain information respecting the state of affairs in Asia Minor, and to your Lordship's telegram of the 17th ultimo, approving the same, I have the honour to report that Mr. Graves proposes leaving Constantinople on the 3rd instant by rail for Angora, where he will arrive the following day.

From there he will proceed to Sivas, passing through Yuzgat, one of the scenes of recent disturbance, the probable date of his arrival at Sivas being the 15th May or thereabouts. His next point will be Kharput, viâ Divrig and Arabkir; this place will probably be reached about the end of May, and there Mr. Graves will meet Mr. Vice-Consul Boyajian, Her Majesty's Consular officer at Diarbekir. From Kharput he proposes to travel to Moush, viâ Palu, a report on that road being much wanted by the Intelligence Department of the War Office.

At Moush, Mr. Graves will endeavour to learn the details of the troubles lately reported by Mr. Fitzmaurice, Her Majesty's Acting-Consul at Erzeroum, as having taken place at Vartennis and Avkot, and thence he will proceed straight to his post at Erzeroum, which he expects to reach soon after the middle of June.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 62.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 5, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consular Representatives at Angora, Trebizond, and Erzeroum, regarding Armenian affairs in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir,

Angora, April 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that since my last despatch of the 10th instant, a further batch of Armenians have been liberated from the local prison.

There now remain eight men charged with the offence of high treason.

The Ramazan fast being over the trial of these men will shortly commence (if they are not liberated in the meantime).

These men are not subjected to any rigorous prison Regulations, they are allowed to receive communications and assistance from their friends.

Legal advice is also allowed them if they wish to make use of it. Each of the liberated men had to give, to the satisfaction of the authorities, two guarantees for their future conduct. This was merely a formal matter on the part of the released

men, but it has the effect of keeping a hold on the guarantees [*sic*] who are their coreligionists.

I have not been able to find out the actual constitution of the Court which is to try these men. As soon as this is definitely constituted and commenced I shall watch the proceedings and keep you well informed.

There are about eight or ten Armenians imprisoned at Cesarea and Yuzgat; it is not yet determined whether these men will be brought here to be tried, or whether the local Courts in their respective towns will try their cases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir,

Angora, April 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to place before you some details of the movements of the discontented Armenians in this district.

The feeling of discontent had been going on for some time in the Province of Sivas and other districts beyond.

Last autumn the movement in a modified form extended to this province, first showing itself in the district of Cesarea and afterwards at Yuzgat, by meetings held by the Armenians in the gardens and fields outside the towns. Finding the authorities did not appear to take any notice, they began to hold meetings in their houses in the towns, which excited the suspicions of the Government. Consequently spies were set to watch them, and sufficient evidence was thus procured showing a revolutionary feeling, which evidently justified the authorities in arresting many of those who attended those meetings.

It was not until after the arrests were made that the full force of the movement became known; important documents were found implicating many influential Armenians both inside and outside the Turkish Empire.

The men arrested belonged to the lower, and a few of the middle, classes, who were evidently tools in the hands of those whom the Turkish law could not reach. At all events the arrests of these misguided men has had the effect for the time being of opening their eyes to the folly of the movement.

Whatever their grievances may be, I am at a loss to discover any real grounds for serious complaint. I can only point to one probable cause that might be put forward as a plausible plea for the movement, that is the severe pressure put upon them by the authorities for taxes left in arrear, and so accumulated as to make payment difficult. Owing to the loose system of the authorities in collecting the taxes which are sometimes, owing to bad seasons, left to fall in arrear, the peasants when the local authorities acting upon instructions from Constantinople put pressure upon them, find it very difficult to meet the demands of the tax-gatherer, and in many cases their goods and chattels are sold to pay the taxes, which often does not cover the amount due to the Government.

Many instances have come to my knowledge of rich Christians who are able to pay, but evade on some trivial excuse, to pay the lawful amount due to the authorities; consequently the taxes accumulate, and should a bad season for the crops occur, or a serious fall in prices of the products of the district, they make this a pretext and make Petitions to the Government for a reduction in their taxes, and often enough succeed in their object. It is not that the taxes are heavy, it is really the loose system of allowing them to fall in arrear, and when extra pressure is put upon the peasant he resents it, and often is the real cause of discontent.

This subject of tax farming having an important bearing on the Armenian discontent must, however, form the subject of a separate despatch.

Of all the Christian communities in this district the Armenians alone have openly shown a spirit of opposition to the Government. The Armenian Catholics, who outnumber the Armenians, are law-abiding and contented; they have not the slightest sympathy with the movement, nor have the authorities subjected them to any inconvenience.

The Greeks, who form a minority of the Christian subjects of the Sultan, are also contented and law-abiding.

Many of the influential Armenians in this district do not countenance the movement, and express their strong disapproval of the action of their co-religionists.

From the exceptional opportunities I have of obtaining personal information and seeing the daily life of the Armenians, I cannot believe that their grievances are so grave as to cause such an untoward opposition to the existing laws of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 62.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, April* 26, 1893.

I INCLOSE herewith, for your Excellency's perusal, copies of two despatches on Armenian affairs received by me from Mr. Spadaro.

The statement contained in the middle of his last despatch leads one to the conjecture that the Armenians had after all put up the seditious placards.

This may well be thought an essential point affecting considerably all views taken of the origin of the present troubles.

I have therefore written to Mr. Spadaro, as well as to Dr. Jewett, requesting them to ascertain if possible the true motives which led Armenian revolutionists to assassinate Kirimlian at Marsovan—and also as there seems to be some mistake in names, their other associate, Paghladounian, at Amassia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 62.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le* 18 *Avril*, 1893.

J'AI l'honneur de vous confirmer ma lettre du 14 de ce mois.

Il n'a encore été pris que je sache aucune mesure concernant les personnes incarcérées dans les villes du Vilayet de Sivas. Un voyageur qui a quitté Sivas le Vendredi Saint (7 Avril) m'a informé que son Excellence le Vali avait reçu de Constantinople la veille, Jeudi, un télégramme l'invitant à relâcher certains individus. La forme et les termes de ce télégramme ayant été jugés très élastiques par le Gouverneur lui-même, il demanda par le fil de nouvelles instructions, plus précises, à Constantinople. La réponse n'était pas encore arrivée à Sivas Vendredi soir, et personne n'a été relâchée. J'aurai soin de vous tenir au courant des mesures qui ont pu être prises après le 7 Avril dès que je serai moi-même fixé à cet égard.

En ce qui concerne la nouvelle relative à la pendaison de deux Arméniens dans une église de Sivas le Dimanche de Pâques, il y a lieu pour connaître l'exacte vérité, d'attendre l'arrivée à Samsoun des voyageurs ayant quitté Sivas le 9 Avril, ou après cette date, c'est-à-dire, deux ou trois jours encore.

Vous pouvez être persuadé que je ferai mon possible pour vous fixer sur la véracité de ce fait, dont personne à Samsoun n'a encore entendu parler, et je vous adresserai suivant le cas le télégramme suivant: "Nouvelle fausse" ou "Nouvelle vraie."

Hier au soir le nommé Dikran Gulbenkian, Arménien Protestant, fils d'un ancien missionnaire nommé Gulbank, lequel a fait ses études à l'école de Mersifon, a été arrêté ici en vertu d'un télégramme reçu par son Excellence le Mutessarif. Il sera envoyé à Angora. Le Gouverneur de la ville, interrogé par le père du jeune homme sur les motifs de cette arrestation que rien ne justifiait, a répondu qu'il les ignorait lui-même, et qu'il ne pouvait pas faire autrement que d'exécuter des ordres reçus.

Cette arrestation paraît avoir une certaine corrélation avec celles de M. Thoumayian et de M. Kayayan, qui ont été de nouveau dirigés sur Angora pour y être jugés.

Je vous tiendrai au courant du suivi.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SPADARO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 62.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le* 23 *Avril*, 1893.

J'AI l'honneur de vous confirmer ma lettre du 18 de ce mois.

Les renseignements que j'ai eus depuis cette date me permettent de vous annoncer qu'un ordre d'amnistie a été transmis à Amassia. Cet ordre s'applique seulement aux personnes à la charge desquelles rien n'a pu être mis, dont la culpabilité n'a pas été prouvée, et qui n'ont été arrêtées et mis en prison que parce qu'elles étaient soupçonnées de connivence avec d'autres individus plus ou moins compromis. Il est à présumer que cet ordre a été transmis à Amassia par le Vali de Sivas, qui a dû recevoir des instructions plus précises en réponse à celles qu'il a provoquées.

Dans ces conditions, l'amnistie accordée n'en est pas une au sens propre du mot, car il était avant tout du devoir des autorités Ottomanes de relâcher tous ceux qui ont été arrêtés purement et simplement sur des soupçons non-fondés avant même d'en recevoir l'ordre.

Je puis, en outre, vous affirmer que, en ce qui concerne Amassia, plusieurs fonctionnaires de l'autorité locale ont exploité la situation d'une manière indigne, et ne se sont pas décidés à mettre en liberté les personnes incarcérées sans leur extorquer préalablement des sommes plus ou moins fortes.

A Amassia, Mersifon, et Tchorum il n'y a plus de prisonniers politiques. Tous ceux qui n'ont pas été relâchés ont été dirigés sur Angora pour y être jugés.

Parmi ceux-là se trouvent les nommés Thoumayian et Kayayan, qui sont fortement accusés d'être les instigateurs occultes des troubles actuels. Est-ce à tort ou à raison? je ne saurais vous le dire; mais j'ai tout lieu à croire que les vrais coupables n'ont jamais été arrêtés. Du reste, l'enquête des autorités Turques n'a rien fait ressortir qui ne fut pas déjà connu, et cela prouve avec quelque raison que les Arméniens sont très bien organisés.

En effet, le beau-fils d'un prêtre Arménien, nommé S. Paghladounian, n'a-t-il pas été assassiné à Amassia par les siens pour avoir dévoilé à l'autorité locale les secrets qui lui avaient été confiés. A Mersifon un Arménien, G. Kirimlian, a été également assassiné pour avoir dénoncé, le jour même, au Caïmacam de cette localité l'intention des Arméniens d'afficher les placards séditieux. Le Caïmacam a été destitué pour n'avoir pas tenu compte de l'avis. Ces deux assassinats ont été décidés par ordre des Comités fonctionnant secrètement.

La tranquillité dans l'avenir ne me paraît pas assurée, et il est à craindre que des incidents plus graves encore que ceux qui sont déjà à votre connaissance ne viennent à se produire dans un laps de temps plus ou moins éloigné.

Je ne suis pas encore en mesure de vous informer si le bruit relatif à la pendaison des deux Arméniens à Sivas est vrai ou faux, aucun voyageur n'étant encore arrivé de cette ville à Samsoun depuis le Dimanche de Pâques.

Veuillez &c.
(Signé) A. SPADARO.

P.S. 24 *Avril, à* 10 *heures matin.*—A l'instant même un voyageur arrivé de Sivas, qu'il a quitté le Lundi de Pâques, m'informe qu'il n'y a eu aucun crime commis Dimanche dans une église. La nouvelle relative à la pendaison des deux Arméniens est donc fausse. Je viens de vous en informer par le fil.

A. S.

Inclosure 6 in No. 62.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, April* 22, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th March, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that some eighteen Armenian families from the villages of Ekrek and Vekhiuss in the Nariman district have fled across the border, and have been comfortably settled by the Russian authorities at Olti. The reasons of this migration are: During the last eighteen months a considerable portion of their male population has been in prison, with the result that the fields and stock of these villages have suffered very much from their absence, while since the recent wholesale condemnations

of their fellow-villagers, they have suffered more from the hostile attitude of their Moslem neighbours, who regard them as the murderers of two of their (Moslem) co-religionists. Some of their lands have been appropriated by Moslem Turcoman immigrants. These reasons, together with last year's bad harvest and consequent scarcity, had rendered their position pitiable in the extreme.

The action of the Turkish Government in the whole Nariman affair has been very ill-judged. The Armenians may be fairly suspected of a connection with or connivance at the crime, but there is a wide gap between suspicion and proof. Again, there seemed no reason for giving a political colouring to a case of murder prompted probably by a desire of vengeance, and the wiser course would certainly have been to let the case follow its course in the ordinary Courts of Justice.

The recent emigration of Armenians will not fail to spread the ill effects of the incident among their countrymen in Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 62.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, April* 22, 1893.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 18th instant and my reply thereto of the 19th, I would beg to point out that the Vartennis affair alluded to in these telegrams is distinct from, and anterior to, the Avzot incident mentioned in my despatch of the 15th April.

I am informed that the Vartennis affair occurred about the end of January last. The zaptiehs made the search, expecting to find a large quantity of arms.

Finding only a few, they are said to have maltreated and even tortured the villagers to make them disclose where the suspected remaining arms were concealed. Being unsuccessful, they imprisoned a number of the villagers. The women are rumoured to have then fired their own dwellings, being reduced to desperation by this last incident, as well as by that of August 1890 and its consequences. This latter rumour savours somewhat of the heroic, and I report it to your Excellency only as representing the alleged state of feeling of the Vartennis Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 63.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 178.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 8, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora respecting the pending trial of Armenian prisoners, and reporting an interview which he had with one of the ringleaders of the movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir *Angora, May* 2, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 18th ultimo, and acknowledge receipt of your telegram of the 29th, reading:—

"I understand that Armenian trials take place at Angora on Wednesday next. Inform me fully of all that passes. Acknowledge receipt of this telegram."

To which I replied, on the 30th, as follows:—

"Telegram received. Watching proceedings."

I beg to inform you that the trials are not definitely fixed, owing to a recent

arrival of a further batch of Armenians from the Vilayet of Sivas, and the authorities are waiting the arrival of documents from Marsovan; as soon as they arrive the trials will at once commence.

These men, to the number of about forty-five, who have recently arrived, are implicated in the Marsovan affair. Owing to a change of venue, their trials will take place at Angora.

The exact number of Armenians now awaiting their trial is fifty-three.

There are no prisoners either at Cesarea or Yuzgat, nor any, the Vali informs me, in the Sivas Vilayet.

The Vali, at my request, has offered me a seat in the Court which is to try these men. I trust that my request to attend the Court to watch the proceedings will meet with your approval.

The constitution of the Court has been formed, and will consist of two Turks, one Armenian Catholic, and one Armenian.

When the trials commence I shall dispatch a daily report of the proceedings.

Such is the position of the affair up to this date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, May* 2, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in the presence of the Vali, I have had an interview with one of the ringleaders of the Armenian movement.

The following is a brief résumé of my conversation with him.

On asking him the cause of his being a prisoner, he, without hesitation, replied that he was a Socialist, and, with the object of spreading socialistic ideas, he came from Athens to Mersina, where he stayed a short time, then proceeded to Cesarea, where he was arrested by the Turkish authorities. He also avowed that he did not recognize the authority of the Government, nor would he acquiesce in the existing laws of the country.

This man showed a bold and unabashed demeanour, and made no secret of his decided socialistic opinions, which are shared by the majority of the men lodged in the prison.

I give the short conversation to give the spirit and temper of the men the authorities have to deal with.

From the man's bold front, and from his assertion that he would use any means to attain his object, I received the impression that such men are dangerous to be let loose in the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

P.S.—I may add that my relations with the Governor-General are most cordial, and he has given me every possible information.

T. N.

No. 64.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 120.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1893.

THE Turkish Ambassador called at the Foreign Office to-day, and read a telegram from the Governor of Sivas to the Porte, which he had received from the Grand Vizier, giving an account of the murders committed by order of the Insurrectionary Committee in that province.

The President of the Committee was, his Excellency said, stated to be one Thommaian Artin, who has escaped from the country by way of Samsoun, but has no connection with Professor Thommaian, who is now awaiting his trial at Angora.

Rustem Pasha has had an interview with Dr. Herrick, who assured his Excellency that the authorities of the American College at Marsovan had done all in their power to discourage the insurrectionary movement, and that it was in consequence of this that the insurrectionary party had endeavoured to implicate the native teachers connected with the college in the late revolutionary proceedings.

Dr. Herrick appears to have made a rather favourable impression upon his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 65.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 186.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 9, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves, who has reached Angora, and who proposes leaving that place for Sivas on the 10th instant, on the subject of the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

(Private and Confidential.)
Dear Sir Clare Ford, *Angora, May 6, 1893.*

I ARRIVED here on the evening of the 4th instant, and went yesterday with Newton to see the Governor-General, Abeddin Pasha, who had very kindly sent his carriage to meet me at the station and has placed it at my disposal while I am here.

I told him at once that I had no official mission here, but would be very glad to learn as much as I could about the Armenian troubles, and he at once entered into a long and most lucid account of the matter, which tallies very much with what I have heard from other sources, and with what Newton has learnt here.

There can be no doubt, I think, that a widespread movement of disaffection existed among the Armenians in this province, and that of Sivas, having its centre at Marsovan, and radiating thence to Yozgat, Cesarea, Sivas, Tchoroum, and other places, but not reaching as far as the city of Angora itself. This movement, by the confession of several of the ringleaders who have been captured, was financed and inspired from abroad by Armenian Committees in Athens, Geneva, Marseilles, and London. A certain number of paid agitators were sent to work in the different districts of Central Anatolia, with varying results, and they succeeded in recruiting a number of adherents, mostly young and ignorant hotheads of the lower classes. As usually happens in cases of Armenian intrigue, informers were soon forthcoming, and the Government authorities were put in possession of the names of most of the guilty parties. After several crimes of violence had been committed by members of this organization, such as armed attacks on the posts, murders of suspected informers, &c., the affair of the seditious placards forced the authorities to take action, and make a clean sweep by arresting nearly all the active participators in the movement, and probably a number of innocent persons as well, or else persons who had merely been compromised by their own folly, or by intimacy with members of the Secret Societies. The great majority of these, says Abeddin Pasha, including many who might have been convicted of sedition, have been released under the amnesty, and there remain here awaiting trial fifty-three prisoners, most of whom have confessed their guilt. Whatever may have been their treatment elsewhere or on the road, the prisoners here are being treated with humanity, are allowed communication with their friends, and are daily visited by a doctor. There was a little dysentery among them at first, but their sanitary condition is now fairly good.

I particularly wish to convey to your Excellency the excellent impression produced upon me by Abeddin's straightforward and sensible language. He is far from exaggerating the importance of the movement, and is averse to unnecessarily

harsh measures of repression, but he thinks that an example should be made of those who have been engaged in, or privy to, the crimes of violence alluded to above.

He laughed heartily at the way in which these ignorant wretches have been playing at revolution, like a pack of schoolboys, and chiefly regrets that the persons who have egged them on should be mostly abroad and safe out of harm's way.

The Pasha sent for one of the principal prisoners from Cesarea, one Andon Rishton (see Newton's Confidential despatch of the 2nd May), and we questioned him at some length. He showed the boldest front possible, told us that he was a Socialist by conviction, and prepared to use any means, even to the taking of life, to attain his ends. He was paid for his work by funds from abroad, and the intention of the movement was, he declared, to cause such disturbances in the country as should attract attention to the oppressed condition of his fellow-countrymen, and compel the interference of foreign Powers.

I then told the Pasha that Pastor Hoffman, the brother-in-law of the prisoner Thoumaian, had sent me an open letter, addressed to the latter, just as I was leaving Constantinople, and I thought the only course open to me was to put it in his Excellency's hands, in case he saw fit to allow him to receive it. This he at once offered to do, and insisted upon sending for Thoumaian and giving him the letter in my presence, with leave to answer it, on condition that he (the Pasha) should read his reply before forwarding it.

We had a long conversation with Thoumaian, who firmly insisted on his innocence, and declared that he had been confounded, accidentally or wilfully, with his relative Artin Thoumaian, who was admittedly the President of the Secret Society, and is now a fugitive from justice. The Pasha spoke very kindly to him, and encouraged him to hope for a speedy release. Thoumaian told us that he was in perfectly good health, and was confined in a separate room, where he was fairly comfortable. He was cleanly dressed, and certainly looked as well as he said he was.

When he had left the room the Pasha asked me what position your Excellency took up with respect to Thoumaian's case. I said that, as far as I knew, your Excellency only hoped that he would be treated with strict justice and impartiality; that this man's case had attracted much attention and sympathy in our country and elsewhere in Europe; and that you were no doubt of opinion that a very unfavourable impression, and one most disadvantageous to the true interests of Turkey, would be created if the trial was conducted in a hole-and-corner fashion, and if full liberty was not granted to Thoumaian, as well as to the other prisoners, to employ the best counsel, and every other legitimate means of establishing their innocence, if they could. "Well," said he, "the remainder of the documents have arrived to-day from Marsovan. I am going through them myself with great attention, and if I am persuaded that the case against Thoumaian is not a strong one, if there is reasonable doubt, or even if it is clear that he has been slightly implicated in this movement, I shall do my utmost to procure his release without his being sent for trial, being convinced, from what you tell me, that it would be in the best interests of my country to avoid even the suspicion of wilful injustice in the case of a man who appears to have excited so much sympathy in Europe, and to have found such powerful defenders in the press and elsewhere. Anyhow," he added, "he does not look or talk in the least like a dangerous conspirator, and he is not likely to do any harm if we let him go."

Of course I told him that I had not come to ask any favour for Thoumaian, and that I only hoped that justice would be done; but I have some hopes that the result of our interview may be satisfactory for this poor fellow, whose demeanour was certainly very much in his favour. To-day Newton has seen the Pasha again, who told him that he had run through the documents, and was afraid that there was a strong *prima facie* case against Thoumaian, who would probably have to stand his trial. Five or six days at least must elapse before the trial commenced, and probably more, and it will be most likely of long duration. Your Excellency ought to receive this letter on Tuesday morning, and I propose not to leave Angora for Sivas until Wednesday morning, in case you should see fit to telegraph to me on Tuesday ordering me to remain here over the trial, which would involve a delay of at least a fortnight or three weeks in my journey, and be sure to attract additional attention to my movements.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 66.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 16.)

Sir, *Angora, May 6, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the documents relative to the trials of the Armenians arrived yesterday from Marsouan.

The Vali informs me that the trials could not commence before the 11th instant, perhaps later; as soon as the date is definitely fixed, I shall advise you by telegraph.

The Vali also informs me that the papers which have just arrived contain information which gravely implicates Pastor Thoumaian, and whatever hopes there may have been of his being liberated before the trials commenced are now dissipated, and the only course now open is to place him on his trial with the others.

The charges now preferred against Thoumaian are that he has been actively engaged as an agitator, and the authorities state that he has visited about some fifteen villages in the district of Marsouan in this capacity.

Thoumaian states that he did visit these villages, but for commercial purposes. The authorities, however, have failed to trace any business transactions executed by him in any of the villages, which leads them to believe that his object was ostensibly to spread a spirit of dissatisfaction, and to stir up the Armenians in opposition to the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 66 A.

Foreign Office to Dr. Herrick.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 16, 1893.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Riggs on the subject of the cases of Mr. Thoumaian and Mr. Kayegan, who are now awaiting their trial at Angora.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 67.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 193.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 15, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herein copy of a despatch I have this day received from Consul Graves, who has been stopping at Angora *en route* to his post at Erzeroum.

I may mention that I received a visit this morning from M. Hoffmann, a Lutheran clergyman residing at Geneva, who has come out here to look after M. Thoumaian, who is his brother-in-law.

M. Hoffmann has just returned from Angora, where he saw M. Thoumaian, who appears to be in good health and to be well treated, thanks to the measures taken by the Vali of that district. The Vali informed M. Hoffmann that, from what he had learnt of the case, there would be no difficulty in proving M. Thoumaian's innocence of the charges which had been preferred against him.

I likewise inclose copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Angora, as well as that of a private letter which he addressed to me on the 10th instant.

I likewise transmit a précis embodying the principal points of information which have been collected here at my request by Mr. Block bearing upon the Thoumaian incident.

It would almost look as if Mr. Newberry, the United States' Secretary of Legation's visit to Marsovan, had injured instead of benefited M. Thoumaian's cause. However,

be that as it may, I am still sanguine of seeing M. Thoumaian acquitted, as a strong presumption appears to exist that another person of the same name, but who has succeeded in effecting his escape, is the real culprit in the present seditious Armenian movement which has taken place in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

(Private and Confidential.)
My dear Sir Clare Ford, *Angora, May 9, 1893.*

SINCE writing my last letter to you, I received information as to the treatment which the political prisoners here, and notably Thoumaian, had met with at the hands of the Turkish authorities, which made it desirable, as I thought, that I should see Thoumaian again, and question him as to the truth of what I had heard.

To-day I called upon the Vali to take leave of him, and thank him for his kind and courteous reception, and I took this opportunity of asking him to send for Thoumaian, in order that I might have some further conversation with him. This he did at once, and I lost no time in asking the prisoner whether he had had reason to complain of his treatment. He assured me that since his arrival in Angora he had been treated with humanity; but that on the way from Marsovan he had been sadly ill-used, being half-starved, cruelly manacled, and beaten. From Marsovan to Tchoroum, a distance of 36 miles or two marches, no food was given him, and his hands were confined for five days in wooden manacles which rendered rest impossible, and had left scars which were still distinctly visible to me upon his wrists. At Tchoroum, the Kaimakam had thrashed him and other prisoners with a stick for having endeavoured to ease the manacles upon their wrists, when the pain they caused became unendurable. He showed some hesitation in saying this; but I pressed him to tell the truth before the Pasha, who I saw was impressed by his story, and who assured me that he greatly regretted such occurrences. Since the prisoners have been here, I have learnt that Abeddin Pasha has contributed additions to their prison fare from his own kitchen, and has personally directed such improvements in the state of the prison as were compatible with the accommodation it affords.

I asked his Excellency to tell me what the charges against Thoumaian consisted of, and he explained to me that they were mainly as follows:—

1. That five Armenian prisoners from Cesarea declared that Carabet Thoumaian, under the soubriquet of "Baron Mineh," was the real chief of the Revolutionary Committee at Marsovan.

2. That two years ago Thoumaian, together with Kayayian, had made a journey through the interior, stopping at Yozgat, Cesarea, and Sivas, ostensibly on business, but really for the purpose of stirring up sedition.

3. That one of the prisoners now at Angora declared that while at Gemerek, during the above-mentioned journey, he had heard Thoumaian use seditious language.

The Pasha questioned Thoumaian before me on all these heads. As to the first, his Excellency himself admitted that the five prisoners said that they did not know Thoumaian personally, but only believed him to be the "Baron Mineh" in question. Thoumaian being far better known than the Artin Thoumaian, who is generally admitted to have been a leader in the Society, this mistake (or wilful confusion of persons, as the case may be) seems natural enough.

As for the second point, Thoumaian explained it quite naturally by saying that he had made the journey spoken of as a tour, during the college vacation, undertaken partly for the purpose of collecting money from a man whose name he gave, to whom he had advanced money for stock-raising and other business. He had taken another road on the return journey to see something more of the country, instead of returning by the same way.

With regard to the third point, he never remembered having used the seditious language attributed to him, but he recollected an incident which he described, and which might have given rise to the accusation, if the language he used had been distorted or misunderstood.

Abeddin Pasha again encouraged him to hope for the best, and told me that he

would do his utmost to see that justice was done him. He begged me, however, not to draw official attention to the manner in which he has, to please me, usurped the functions of the judicial authorities by examining the prisoner in my presence, as this might cause him serious prejudice at head-quarters, and I told him that I would beg your Excellency to refrain from any allusion to this point in your official despatches and in your communications with the Ottoman Government.

In conclusion, I would state my belief that the charges against Thoumaian have been manufactured by some of the Sivas authorities for purposes of their own, the Vali and "Procureur-Général" of Sivas having shown considerable "parti pris" against him, that the accusations appear to me to be trumpery in themselves, but dangerous from the amount of garbled and hearsay evidence which has been introduced into the case, unless the prisoner is ably defended, and the Court which tries him animated with the desire to do justice without fear or favour. As far as I can learn here, no steps have been taken to provide him with counsel, and his friends should remedy this deficiency without loss of time.

The trial has now been postponed to the 20th instant, and I propose, therefore, not to delay my departure any longer, but to start for Sivas to-morrow viâ Yozgat, about nine days being required for the journey.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, May* 10, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 29th ultimo, instructing me to attend the trial of the Armenians.

I also confirm receipt of your telegram of the 7th instant, reading:

"Please inform me by telegraph when Thoumaian trial takes place, and who is defending him."

To which I replied on the 9th instant as follows:

"Thoumaian trial cannot commence before 20th instant. No one engaged for defence."

The lengthy nature of the documents which have recently arrived from Marsovan has delayed the trial until the 20th instant.

The documents are now being arranged, and the charges preferred against the Armenians are in course of preparation, and each prisoner will be supplied with a copy; five days will be allowed to engage counsel and prepare their defence. In case of non-engagement of counsel by the prisoners, the judicial authorities will appoint a local lawyer to defend them. This, however, is a formal matter. A local man is not likely to exert himself on their behalf, and he would in all probability receive his cue from the Government as to the line of defence. As for Thoumaian, it would be advisable to engage on his behalf a lawyer from Constantinople, who would probably have more influence, and who would not be likely to countenance any overtures the authorities might make to him.

Yesterday I had another interview with Thoumaian, and learnt from him particulars of the treatment he received at the hands of the Turkish authorities.

When arrested at Marsovan, he was put in chains and handcuffed in heavy wooden manacles. On his way from Marsovan to Angora he had to pass through the town of Tchoroum, a distance of about two days' journey from Marsovan, and during the whole of the time he says he was kept without food; on arriving at Tchoroum he attempted to loosen the manacles to relieve the pain they were causing. The Kaïmakam, on hearing of this, appeared, and with his own hands gave Thoumaian and his companions in misfortune a sound beating with a heavy stick, and subjected them even to worse treatment than before.

He also tells me he was in one position for five days, and his manacles were not removed to allow him to partake of his food with ease.

Since his arrival at Angora he has been treated more kindly.

He now bears on his wrists the scars caused by the wooden manacles, and the appearance of these scars tend to show that he must have undergone a great amount of torture and pain.

Some of the prisoners are still in chains; with this exception they are kindly and humanely treated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 67.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, May* 10, 1893.

I BEG to give your Excellency my impressions as to the supposed guilt of Pastor Thoumaian.

In my conversation with him yesterday in the presence of the Vali, he answered all questions without hesitation, and his explanations of his movements were open and straightforward.

The principal charges against him at present are, that he as President of a Revolutionary Society (under the assumed name of Baron Minni), visited some fifteen villages in the Sivas Vilayet, with the object of spreading discontent and inciting the Armenians to active resistance against the Government, and that he disbursed money for this object.

He stated that he did visit these villages, but it was in connection with his mission work, and also as the head of a Young Men's Christian Association.

In reply to the accusation of disbursing money for revolutionary purposes, he stated that at a village called Bourhan, in the Vilayet of Sivas, he had a financial interest in a farm, and he advanced money to the occupier for the purpose of purchasing cattle and farm implements; he said he could substantiate these statements by witnesses who had not been mixed up in this movement.

He is also accused of using seditious language; he explains this by an incident which occurred at the village of Bourhan; while he was staying there the tax-gatherers arrived accompanied by zaptiehs, who put extreme pressure on the Armenian villagers for their taxes. He (Thoumaian) interfered on their behalf, and strong language was used; the result was that Thoumaian and his friends scraped together a few medjidiehs and appeased the zaptiehs.

From my interviews with Thoumaian I am led to believe that he has had nothing to do with this movement. He appears quite a harmless kind of man. I asked the Vali what he thought of his guilt; he remarked that he was inclined to believe him innocent rather than guilty.

With respect to some of the other prisoners, there is overwhelming evidence to show that they have participated in this seditious movement, and some of them in my presence asserted such to be the case, and there is little or no hope of their acquittal.

From my opinion of the Vali, whom I have known for the past seven years, I feel sure he will exercise his influence on Thoumaian's behalf, and he will do his utmost to see that justice is fairly and impartially administered, and if there is any doubt he will endeavour to let him have the benefit of it. On the other hand, if found guilty he will be for carrying out the extreme sentence of the law, and apt to be somewhat severe.

The "Procureur-Général" who has charge of the cases against these men is a capable man, and is not imbued with any ideas of the old Turkish school of officials, and I think that in his hands the case will meet with a certain amount of fairness. This of course depends upon the instructions he may receive from Constantinople.

I have asked the Vali for a copy of the indictments against Thoumaian, which I shall forward to your Excellency as soon as it is made out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 67.

Précis of Memoranda by Mr. Block.

(Confidential.)

THE statements derived from different sources respecting Professor Thoumaian and his connection with the Armenian seditious movement are conflicting.

According to the version of Mr. Newberry, the Secretary of the United States,

Thoumaian appears to be implicated, but more reliable information proves that this version is untrustworthy in the highest degree.

The Secretary of the United States' Legation states that Mr. Riggs, of the Marsovan College, admitted the guilt of both Thoumaian and Cayayian, and struck their names off the roll of College Professors; that a Protestant pastor, Mardiros Coloustian, who was in prison at Sivas, and an avowed participator in the movement, asserted that he knew Thoumaian to be implicated, and stated before the Vali of Sivas that Thoumaian had been to Gemerek, declared himself a leader of the movement, urging him to join, and left behind him a packet which proved to contain the seditious placards; further, that a letter from Dr. Dodds to one of the American missionaries at Constantinople says that Thoumaian came to that place and announced to the Armenian community the approaching seditious movement, advising them to buy arms.

It appears however from information from other sources, that *Mr. Riggs did not erase Professor Thoumaian's name from the College Register*, and though urged by the Secretary of the United States' Legation to do so he refused, maintaining that the evidence against him was not conclusive.

With regard to the evidence of Mardiros Caloustian, Mr. Perry, an American missionary, explains that such was only given in the presence of the Vali of Sivas (Mr. Perry being also present), and that Caloustian never said there that Thoumaian left the placards with him. Caloustian also contrived to communicate with Mr. Perry in writing, and informed him that the Vali had been constantly urging him to declare Thoumaian to be a conspirator, which he had refused to do.

It further appears that no letter has been received by any American missionary from Dr. Dodds at Cesarea, stating that Thoumaian came to Cesarea.

This letter is really the one from Mr. Perry at Sivas mentioned above, which states that Thoumaian came to Gemerek, according to Caloustian; that there is no ground for asserting that Thoumaian left the placards at Gemerek, since Caloustian himself before the Vali said that Thoumaian's visit to Gemerek was one and a-half years ago, and that the placards were received by him (Caloustian) anonymously, with nothing to show their origin. Mr. Perry's letter further states that Caloustian, on leaving for Angora, publicly declared that he withdrew anything he might have said implicating Thoumaian.

A letter from Thoumaian himself states that he has communicated with his fellow prisoners at Angora who are said to have given evidence against him, and that they are prepared to assert in open court that they do not implicate him.

Lastly, a Turkish Judge of the Constantinople Appeal Court has stated confidentially to Mr. Block that he has examined all the documents from Marsovan, Sivas, Cesarea, &c., and he considers that the Secretary of the United States' Legation has been "joué comme un enfant" in the Marsovan case, and that many of the accusations against Armenians are without foundation whatsoever.

No. 68.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 194.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 16, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 193 of yesterday's date, inclosing correspondence respecting M. Thoumaian's case, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have just received from Pastor Hoffmann, the prisoner's brother-in-law.

Pastor Hoffmann appears to be satisfied with the result of his visit to Angora, and is hopeful respecting the acquittal of M. Thoumaian.

He desires also to press the case of M. Kayayan, the fellow professor of M. Thoumaian at Marsovan College, respecting whose innocence he is apparently convinced.

Pastor Hoffmann states that a lawyer has been found at Angora, Dr. Awakian, to undertake M. Thoumaian's case, and that the latter is satisfied with this arrangement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Pastor Höffmann to Sir Clare Ford.

Votre Excellence, *Constantinople, le 16 Mai*, 1893.

JE me permets de vous donner en quelques lignes le résultat de mon voyage à Angora.

J'y arrivai Mercredi soir, le 10 Mai. Je pensais d'abord voir Mr. Newton, le Vice-Consul Britannique, mais il n'était pas en ville. Il habite à peu près une heure loin d'Angora. Je lui envoyais votre lettre d'introduction. Il ne pouvait pas venir en ville Jeudi, le 11 Mai. De sorte, pour ne pas perdre du temps, je devais faire d'abord ma visite à son Excellence M. le Gouverneur, Abeddin Pasha.

Celui-ci me recevait avec beaucoup de bienveillance. Je lui avais envoyé d'avance la lettre d'introduction de la part de votre Excellence. M. le Vali me déclarait qu'il était convaincu de l'innocence de M. Garabed Thoumaian. Aussi aurait-on découvert qu'il y a un autre Thoumaian avec le prénom Artin, qui selon différentes indices devrait être le vrai malfaiteur et anarchiste. Lui, le Vali, serait maintenant occupé de chercher cet homme, qui malheureusement s'est enfui depuis dix mois. Cependant le procès contre M. Garabed Thoumaian devait être continué jusqu'à sa fin formelle ce qui aurait lieu à peu près en dix jours vers le 20 Mai. Mais le Vali exprimait le ferme espoir que le procès finira par l'acquittement complet de mon beau-frère. Seulement il demanda qu'un avocat prenait en main la défense de M. Thoumaian. Tout cela m'était dit par le Vali d'abord seul, et plus tard répété devant M. le Procureur-Général. Plus tard on appela mon beau-frère. Le Vali répéta devant lui encore une fois tout ce qu'il m'avait dit tout à l'heure. Enfin on venait à la conclusion qu'un M. Awakian, Arménien d'Angora, devrait faire la défense comme avocat. C'était mon beau-frère même qui avait proposé ce monsieur au Vali.

Aussi le Gouverneur me donna la permission de voir librement mon beau-frère, répétant encore une fois la ferme conviction que le procès finira par l'acquittement. J'ai donc vu M. Thoumaian plusieurs fois dans sa prison et je pouvais causer avec lui sans être gêné.

Il m'a raconté que lui et son compagnon M. Kayayan, aussi professeur du Collège de Marsovan, étaient enchaînés pendant à peu près soixante jours de la manière la plus dure. Seulement le 3 Mai on a ôté leurs chaînes, ainsi qu'à une vingtaine d'Arméniens de Cæsarée, &c., aussi prisonniers politiques. On a conduit M. Thoumaian dans une autre prison ou plutôt dans la petite maison du premier gardien. Là, M. Thoumaian avait une existence relativement libre et confortable. Je me permets de mentionner que c'était le 1er Mai que j'étais chez vous, votre Excellence, et que votre Excellence m'a dit que vous vouliez parler avec le Grand Vizir le lendemain. De sorte que cette amélioration du sort des pauvres prisonniers était évidemment déjà l'effet de votre intercession auprès de la Sublime Porte.

Espérant que mon beau-frère sera vraiment acquitté, il est forcément à désirer que son compagnon et collègue, M. Kayayan, participerait de la même justification par un plein acquittement, car c'étaient les paroles de mon beau-frère et aussi de plusieurs autres personnes que j'ai vues à Angora et qui connaissaient M. Kayayan, que celui-ci est de la même manière innocent que M. G. Thoumaian. J'en ai parlé au Vali, mais celui-ci me répondit que le cas de M. Kayayan serait plus complexe; cependant, qu'il voudrait montrer toute son indulgence que possible à M. Kayayan. Votre Excellence, je répète ici ma prière, donnez votre puissant secours aussi à ce pauvre homme, qui le mérite comme mon beau-frère; et en cas que M. Kayayan serait vraiment condamné, veuillez avoir la bonté d'obtenir de Sa Majesté le Sultan la grâce pour cet excellent et mérité jeune professeur. Il a déjà tant souffert, sa belle-mère a perdu sa raison, comme on m'a dit, à cause de cet emprisonnement de son fils, sa femme est tombée malade et ses enfants aussi, &c.

J'ai vu Mr. Newton dans le courant de l'après-midi de Vendredi.

En vous remerciant, &c.

(Signé) A. HOFFMANN.

No. 69.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 200.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, inclosing copies of two letters from Dr. Jewett containing some further information respecting the treatment of Armenians in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, May* 8, 1893.

I BEG to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's perusal, copies of two letters from Dr. Jewett containing some further information on the conduct of, and treatment of, Armenians in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Sir, *Sivas, April* 24, 1893.

I RETURNED three days ago. Find things in good condition here as far as I have learned.

Your telegram inquiring if anything extraordinary had happened on Easter Sunday in any church at Sivas or neighbourhood was received and answered by Rodigas, Vice-Consul. He said, "Nothing."

At Marsovan an interesting occurrence happened. I had previously told some of the priests of the Gregorian Church that I would attend a portion of the morning mass; 5,000 persons crowded the church. For some reason or other half-a-dozen soldiers were stationed before the door of the church. When I came along they jumped up from the ground where they were lying, picked up their guns and saluted me. I passed into the church, the cavass going ahead. (For many weeks the Turks had been talking of killing the Christians. Such talk was very commonly reported to me while at Marsovan.) The people were seated on the floor of the church. To clear the way so that I could go to the altar, some one near the door said to the people, "They are coming." Immediately there was a panic; they thought their time had come. Men, women, and children screamed and wept; even men cried. Ten priests mingled among the audience and tried to quiet the people, but to no avail. I stood up near the altar and smiled a sickly smile, but that did no good. The choir started a chant, and the Bishop came out and said something, but it was several minutes before order was restored, and even after the service some of the women were still crying from fright. There seemed to be no thought or sign of any resistance on the part of the people. They did not attempt to leave the church, but huddled together like a lot of frightened sheep

I wrongly informed you in regard to a placard being put up in Sivas by a member of the Circassian Militia Regiment. He did put up a paper of some sort, but it was not one of the "Armenian" placards. It was written with pen and ink. Some say it asked that the Circassian Regiment might be permitted to kill all the Armenians and Christians who are giving so much trouble. Others say it said something against the Government. The Turkish Judge tells me it said a certain man and woman were of bad character. He said the placard was torn where the names were, and he could not tell against whom it spoke.

The missionaries here say that the damaging testimony against Thoumaian and

Kayayian, especially the confession of Badveli Mardiros, was misrepresented to them by the Vali, and that it was not so convincing as at first represented. I wish I might attend their trial at Angora.

Yours truly,
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 69.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Sir, *Sivas, April* 29, 1893.

YOUR letters of the 4th and 20th April have been received.

I will follow your instructions in regard to telegrams and postage in the future. I am out something for these expenses now, but I do not know exactly how much.

Shall be glad to keep you informed of what is going on. The Vali is trying to prevent my knowing what is going on. Since my return the Turkish officials here have treated me coldly, perhaps because of the reports which I have made not to their liking. The Vali has ordered the most intimate of my Armenian acquaintances not to have anything to do with me, and has asked some of them to sign a paper promising that they will have no business or social relations with me. Of course this is childish, but at the same time it strikes me as decidedly discourteous to the Representatives of foreign Powers. What can be done about it or what course ought I to pursue? Such conduct tends to make Armenians more restless and dissatisfied.

There is a rumour current here that fresh troubles have arisen at Gemerek and Cæsarea. On Tuesday evening last about forty zaptiehs were sent from here to that region. The latter statement I have on good authority.

I have not heard of the hanging affair you mention, and do not think it true. In my last week's letter I told you of an interesting little affair at Marsovan on Easter Sunday which may have given rise to the rumour.

April 15.—Twenty-seven out of the thirty-nine prisoners taken from Marsovan to Chorum were returned liberated. The prisoners were unanimous in their statement that the prisoners were not treated with proper humanity. Such reports had been made before, and the Procureur-Général had promised me to give telegraphic orders to insure proper care of prisoners, but it seems from the late reports that his orders had not been sent or complied with up to the 14th April when the prisoners left.

All but three of the recent political prisoners were liberated here. At Cæsarea 32 out of the 163 had not been liberated on the 8th April.

In regard to Mardiros Kalustian of Gemerek I wish to ask your earnest efforts, for I think he is a worthy man and one who clearly is entitled to amnesty. He is a Protestant preacher, with most excellent record of uprightness. He was brought here as a political suspect. On the Sultan's birthday the Vali told the Vice-Consul and one of the missionaries that Mardiros had made a voluntary "confession." The Vali promised Mardiros and the two gentlemen mentioned above that if Mardiros would put his confession in writing he would be pardoned and released. Mardiros did so, but it seems the written statement did not contain all that the Vali had hoped to get. The points in the confession are:—

1. He talked with Thoumaian, who in his visit to Gemerek in 1891 spoke of political and religious liberty and the possibility of outside aid for Armenians. Thoumaian did nothing about organizing a Society at Gemerek.

2. The Society was organized later by the "bearded man" who was said to represent the London Society. Mardiros did not deny that he had knowledge of the Society, but he was not a member.

3. When the package of posters came he saw them, but disapproving of the posting of them, he had nothing whatever to do with it.

4. He told of certain robberies committed by Armenians, Toros in particular.

Officers of the Government laboured long and hard to make him say something against Thoumaian, but he says, "I have not received any order from him myself, neither has any one in our village done anything under his instructions." He agreed to take oath of allegiance and to have nothing to do with revolutionary matters, but he refused to "curse" Thoumaian, and he says he also refused to pay a bribe. Therefore the promised pardon was withheld. I believe the detention of Mardiros is contrary to the promise made by the Sultan to the Armenians and to the foreign Powers, and it is contrary to the promise of the Vali.

April 12.—He was sent to Angora chained by the neck to Toros and Agop Effendi. Their hands also were ironed. I do not know much about Toros and Agop, but I guess they are bad men. They are called robbers and murderers. Mardiros swore by all that is holy that he had never been an instigator of revolution. Do all you can for him.

The Government is bound to convict Thoumaian if it is a possible thing.

Yours truly,
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

P.S. *April* 30.—I hear it pretty straight that an effort is being made [?] to a paper to be used in requesting my removal. I hope to get strong backing from some quarter, but I fear the present organization of our Legation is too Turcophile to expect much there. I would be pleased if you would send me a few of your official envelopes. I think the printing on them makes them pretty safe from being meddled with.

M. A. J.

No. 70.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 205.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 22, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting Armenian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Trebizond, May 15, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from Dr. Jewett reporting among other matters the occurrence of a riot at Kaisarieh, giving a list of Armenians in the Sivas prison, and inclosing translation of a letter received by him from M. Kayaian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Sivas, May 6, 1893.

Dear Sir,

I SENT you a letter last which I trust you received.

I have not gathered much news. I might get more but Armenians do not dare to visit me, and do not like to say much.

It is reported that disturbances continue at Cesarea. Shops are closed. Some riots have occurred, and rumour says some persons have been injured or even killed. According to the reports the disturbance originated from two sources. On or about the 20th April, Toros, who is accused of robbery and was being taken with Mardiros and Hagop Effendi to Angora for trial, was liberated from the escort of zaptiehs by his friends near Cesarea. Zaptiehs or soldiers were sent out to recapture Toros and to arrest his deliverers. A fight followed. Some days later an Armenian funeral procession was set upon and stoned by a company of Turks. Such, as near as I can get at it, is the origin of the disturbed condition.

I learn from the conversation of the Prosecutor-General that it is the determination of the Government to convict a few Armenians (Thoumayan and Kayaian for instance) of complicity in a revolutionary movement and revolutionary Society in order to show the existence of such an organization, and then to make this fact the basis of a demand upon the foreign Powers for the extradition of certain persons who are

supposed to be the instigators of the movement, Armenians in Athens, Paris, London, &c.

It is said that Hosref Pasha has been ordered to appear in Constantinople, but that he remains here on the certificate of the municipal doctor that he is sick. I know of no other evidence of his illness.

Inclosed you will find a letter from Kayaian. I do not like the way he talks about foreign interference, but it may be he only refers to the promise which was made to the prisoners that they would have a fair trial, and that foreign Representatives would be present. The number of prisoners taken from Chorum, according to his letter, is twenty-four—twelve with him and twelve formerly. His letter was a long time in reaching me.

I send also a list of Armenians now in prison here for "political reasons." The facts are rather meagre but there are some interesting cases, No. 14 for instance.

Two cases where Armenian girls were abducted and forced to marry Turks were reported to me last fall. Don't remember whether I wrote you about them or not.

There is a wild rumour that the Vali is getting signatures to a paper stating that I am a revolutionist!

The Vali told the Armenian butchers who owe some back municipal tax that they had better pay it, or he would change their case to the "political question."

Armenians have been warned by officials that they had better not attend the Protestant Church and the Congregation is considerably diminished.

Bogoos (?) makes the following statement to me: About the 14th February his house was attacked and all his papers taken and he put in prison. The Examiner told him they found nothing against him, but as his wife is a Protestant and his children attend the Marsovan school, and as the Protestants are revolutionists, he must have some share in the business. He remained in prison forty-three days. He was told that he would be chained and sent to Angora. He paid 15*l.* to Tefik Effendi, official Dragoman, and 15*l.* to the Mustentik Mouavin and Nuri Effendi, and he was set free. He was told by them that he must pay 5*l.* more or they would find other trouble for him. He says a great many paid money to be liberated. Probably ten persons have paid bribes to be set free after the order of amnesty was given. End of his statement.

At Amassia the same game was played with considerable profit.

I wish I might get news of what is going on in diplomatic circles. Here I am so much out of the world that I hear very little that is going on. If there are any special points you want investigated, let me know. The Vali is still prohibiting people from having anything to do with me.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

Armenian Prisoners in Sivas Prisons for Political Reasons.—(Reported by Armenians.)

Condemned.

1. Kapriel Khalamian, native of Sivas, 35 years old. To be imprisoned four years; has served two years.
2. Agop Khalamian, native of Sivas, 40 years old. Sentenced to three years' imprisonment; has served two years.
3. Missak Khalamian, native of Sivas, 25 years old. Sentence, four years; served two years.
4. Mardiros Fisheukdjian, of Sivas, 25 years old. Sentence, three years; served two years.
5. Krikor Gedugian, of Sivas, 35 years old. Sentence, two years.

These five were accused before the Government by the secret trickery of Hadji Garabed Andonian, ascribing to them false papers he had made out.

6. Holanús Muradian, of Karpoot, a year and a-half ago at Zmiari, near Divrik, he was arrested as a revolutionist and brought to Sivas prison. No suspicious papers or instrument has been found on him; but last week he was condemned to five years' imprisonment at the instigation of a class of persons "who sometimes seize the reins of justice."
7. Garabet Hazarian, from Alakilissé village, near Zara, 28 years old. Sentence, five years; served a year and a-half. Cause: eighteen years ago in a letter written to his teacher suspicious language is used, also twelve years ago in a letter he wrote from Constantinople is found the expression "instrument of deliverance" applied to a revolver he is ordering.

8. Mochidar Kasghanian, of Zimari, near Divrik. Condemned to one and a-half years' imprisonment because ten years ago in a letter written to his father he used some patriotic words.

9, 10, 11. Three Syrian priests from Zulamry, near Van. Sentence, three years; beggars; Mendouh Bey tried to extort bribes but failing, accused of collecting money for revolutionary cause.

12. Natan Momendian, of Divrik, 23 years old; accused of having broken into a house in company with Sarkis, whom he is also accused of having wounded. It is proved that Sarkis died from violence at the hands of the Government. Natan is condemned to death. He claims that he did not know, accompany, or wound Sarkis.

13. Kevork Balukesserian, of Ismid, 35 years old, lawyer, arrested by Hosref Pasha at Azizié. Piece of a hymn found in his possession. Acquitted by the Court but Mendouh Bey did not accept the decision, so he remains.

Accused.

14. Garabet Kapigians, Sivas, 28 years old, seven months in prison. Wrote a letter to the English and American Consuls concerning the abduction of an Armenian girl, who was compelled to marry a Turk. Accused of having become a Frank. A business letter and an Armenian national hymn book belonging to his dead brother were found in his possession.

15. Hagop Messiahian, of Sivas, 40 years old, arrested because under one of the hymns in Garabet Kapigian's hymn book (mentioned above) was written "Hagop Messiahian." Another report says he wrote the music, and that Tefik Effendi (official Tergeman) promised to liberate him for 10*l*. He paid it, but is not released yet. Six months ago he was brought from Trebizond here.[a]

16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, all of Divrik. Four months ago they were suspected of political intrigues, were arrested and brought to Sivas. Their suit remains before the Examiners and Judge.

Inclosure 3 in No. 70.

M. Kayaian's letter to Consul Jewett.

(Translation.) *Yuzgat Prison, April* 5 (17), 1893.

WE hope that you received ample information concerning our condition through those who returned from Chorum. The morning when they started (Saturday, the 15th April) at 3 o'clock, we, the remaining twelve, were brought in two cars to travel this side, having chains on our necks and accompanied by fourteen zaptiehs, of whom three were from Chorum and the others from Mersifon; the same persons who brought us thence, and will, as it seems, accompany us till Angora. When we left Chorum only we two had handcuffs; after travelling for one or two hours we got them removed by asking the zaptiehs. We are much astonished that such tortures are continued and especially exercised on us two, while we were expecting just the contrary. Up to this time we have not enjoyed any benefit from foreign interference. What did happen that concerning us the appearance of the matter has not changed for a hair's width? We do not wish to believe that the ample hopes which we received was in vain. We hope that their (the foreigner's) confidence in us is yet unchanged and that the matter is handled accordingly. We still assert that nothing was found which might be called a positive evidence against us, because there is nothing to be found. We know from sure reliable sources that the indorsement of the letters from Cesarea was procured in the prison by force and unheard tortures, saying that our names should be involved and no others. It is very possible that in the same way witnesses are obtained and ready.

To-morrow or the day after we will be removed to Angora, where are already the twenty or twenty-five remaining prisoners from Cesarea, and twelve persons formerly carried from Chorum and Yuzgat, and we do not know who else. It seems that the important trial will be held there. We think that no doubt an American or foreign Representative will be present there, but we have no information regarding that. If there is no such Representative, it is worth while to have one that we may freely produce our claim, and that also the Cesarea prisoners may frankly deny their forced evidences, as we are assured by friends here that they will do. If there is no such

[a] Vide despatch of the 28th March, 1893. [*Ante*, Inclosure 4 in No. 44.]—H. Z. L.

Representative we do not know whether we shall answer the examinations or not. In short, the presence of a foreign Representative is a necessity and very vital for us. If there is none, it may be telegraphed and one may come by railroad.

Show this letter where it is necessary as soon as possible. Be not anxious for us, as fortunately our health is in good condition; we get accustomed to it pretty well. The Lord is granting us admirable courage and patience. If we need money we can find there. Will M. Xenidis please send his father the necessary informations for us. Pray for us, that all may result in good. Many compliments to all those who are thinking and working for us.

(Signed) H. T. KAYAIAN.

No. 71.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May* 26, 1893, 4·30 P.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from the Vice-Consul at Van to-day:—

"At Kurbash, a village near here, a shocking crime has been committed: four Armenian peasants murdered and mutilated, and on the mountain girls were maltreated. The Vali suspects an Armenian bandit of having committed the crime for the purpose of fabricating atrocities, but local opinion points to Kurds."

No. 72.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May* 29, 1893, 12·45 P.M.

IN continuation of what I reported in my telegram No. 83, I have received the following telegram from Vice-Consul Devey at Van:—

"One of the murderers has been recognized in the person of a Kurdish shepherd of Varack Monastery. It is possible that personal enmity was partly his motive."

No. 73.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 27, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum which I have received from Sir A. Nicolson respecting an interview which he had yesterday with certain American gentlemen who had just arrived from Marsovan and district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

THE Rev. Dr. Smith, Dr. Farnsworth, and Surgeon Dodd came to see me this morning, being introduced by the Rev. Joseph Greene. The first of these gentlemen lives at Marsovan, while Dr. Farnsworth and Mr. Dodd reside at Cæsarea. All these gentlemen have no doubts but that numerous Secret Societies existed among the Armenians; that the members of these Societies were determined and desperate; that they were procuring arms and collecting money; that their aims were distinctly revolutionary; that they blindly obeyed the orders of the head-quarters of these Societies; that they did not flinch from assassination when instructed, and that they were commencing to exercise a terrorism over their more peaceably disposed compatriots. Dr. Farnsworth and Mr. Dodd were more explicit, and appeared to have fuller information on the subject than the other two gentlemen. They informed me that the seditious movement was not confined to the Gregorian Armenians, but was also

extending among the Protestants; that the members of the Societies were becoming more outspoken in their views and intentions, stating that they would in the summer take to the mountains, exercise brigandage, and make the life of a zaptieh a burden to him, and that they would compel the attention of the Powers to the Armenian question. The Mussulman population was becoming alarmed, and a serious tension of feeling was arising between Moslem and Christian. Dr. Smith told me that to his knowledge some Russian agents at Marsovan, Amasia, and another place whose name I have forgotten, were instigating and encouraging the movement. The revolutionary party no doubt, the gentleman added, received indirect encouragement from the sympathy and interest which the Armenian grievances evoked in England and other countries, and of late their attitude had become bolder and more aggressive. The terrorism they exercised over their more tranquil compatriots was increasing, and some murders which had recently occurred of supposed informers or lukewarm supporters had deepened the fear of the peaceable. The latter felt, in many instances, compelled to contribute to the secret funds; if they refused they were liable to serious consequences; if they agreed they ran the risk of being discovered by the Government and impeached for conspiracy—an awkward dilemma. Dr. Farnsworth was of opinion that the majority of the Armenians were in sympathy with the objects of the movement, though not with the methods. Both he and Mr. Dodd considered that the Armenians have no special grievances as Armenians; in any case they were not worse off than the Greek rayah, and in many respects they suffered equally with the Moslem subject. The evil results of a corrupt and unjust administration fell equally on the Moslem and the Christian, while the former had no foreign Power to take his interests to heart. Equality before the law perhaps did not exist, the evidence of a Christian was scarcely considered of a same value as that of a Moslem, but this would necessarily always be the case. Still, during the last ten years there had been an improvement in the lot of the Christians, and both Dr. Farnsworth and Mr. Dodd considered evidently that, on the whole, there was no justification for the sedition among the Armenians, which they considered very prevalent and possibly very dangerous in the near future. Both these gentlemen had seen M. Thoumaian recently at Angora, and found him in good health and well cared for. Mr. Smith left some papers with me, in the Turkish language, addressed to your Lordship, from some Armenians at Marsovan.

The general impression I received from a conversation with these gentlemen, all men of experience and of good knowledge of the country, and especially of the Armenians, was that the seditious movement is more widely spread and more active than we had imagined, and the vanguard of the revolutionary party are more desperate than was believed, and desirous of bringing about a state of things which may, in a different field and in a different degree perhaps, be similar to the situation in Bulgaria before the war.

May 26, 1893.

No. 74.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received May* 31.)

(No. 211.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 27, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora, reporting on the proceedings of the first day of the Armenian trials.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, May* 22, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the trial of the Armenian prisoners commenced on Saturday, the 20th instant.

The constitution of the Court having been altered, now consists of five members, viz.:—

The President (a Turk), assisted by two other Turks, one Armenian Catholic, and one Greek, all natives of Angora with the exception of the President.

The prisoners are defended by seven lawyers.

Saturday's proceedings were as follows:—

The reading of the indictments against the prisoners, which occupied about three hours. The "Procureur-Général" then addressed the Court; the substance of his remarks may be summarized as follows:—

He began by stating that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan was anxious that his Christian subjects should be contented, and if they had any grievances to bring before the authorities there were the usual lawful channels through which they might make them known. He then stated that the Government did not include the whole of the Armenian population in this movement, but located it in the district of Marsovan, and that the stimulus of the movement originated from London, Athens, and Marseilles, and the prisoners before the Court had presumably taken an active part in a seditious movement; they were tools in the hands of others whom the Government could not reach. In addition to the charge of sedition, he laid great stress on the serious crime of murder, with which some of them are accused.

This latter offence, if proved, will tell much against the prisoners.

To-day (Monday) was occupied by examination of the prisoners; some of them admitted that they had taken an active part in this revolutionary movement, and also of being in possession of fire-arms—one prisoner stated that they were instructed to obtain fire-arms in case they might have to make use of them.

One of the ringleaders, named Andon Rishtoni, who was sent to the district of Marsovan by the Committee at Athens to initiate the movement, stated that their object was to form an Armenian kingdom in the Marsovan district, which was to be called "Kutchuk Armenistan."

Thoumaian and Kayayion will probably be examined to-morrow. I will forward to your Excellency a detailed account of their examination.

I have, &c.

(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 75.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received June* 2.)

(No. 87.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June* 2, 1893, 11·40 A.M.

THE concession of the Damascus-Aleppo-Birijik line, mentioned in my telegrams Nos. 61 and 62, has been given by the Sultan to Moutran Bey.

The line will be practically in French hands.

No. 76.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received June* 5.)

(No. 232.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 1, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 227 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further despatch from Vice-Consul Newton reporting the progress of the Armenian trials at Angora.

Your Lordship will observe that the examination of Professor Thoumian has not yet commenced, and that seditious placards have again been posted in public places.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, May* 25, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report proceedings of the third of the trials of the Armenians.

The preliminary examination of some of the prisoners was continued to-day; seventeen have now been examined, leaving thirty-five more to be dealt with in this manner.

Some of the prisoners admitted that they had taken part in this movement and affixed the seditious placards on public buildings, whilst some of them denied any connection with the movement.

Owing to the slow progress the trial is making, Thoumaian's examination has not yet commenced.

On the conclusion of to-day's proceedings the Court adjourned to the 27th instant.

I have to inform your Excellency that some of the seditious placards have recently been affixed on the telegraph poles at Denek Maden, a small town situated midway between Angora and Yusgat. Two men have been arrested on suspicion and are now in the local prison here. Since the arrest of these two men some further placards have been posted in the same town. Further arrests have been made.

The prisoners have not yet arrived here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 77.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 2, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 232 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton reporting the examination of MM. Thoumaian and Kayaian at the trial of Armenians at Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, May* 29, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 25th instant.

The Court resumed its sittings on the 27th instant, and a further batch of prisoners were examined, amongst whom were Garabet Thoumaian and Ohannes Kayaian.

I must mention to your Excellency that the prisoners who have been previously examined were examined in the presence of the others, but on Thoumaian being called up for examination, the President ordered Kayaian out of Court.

Thoumaian's case was gone into at some length and may be summarized as follows. He denied the slightest connection with this movement, nor was he acquainted with some of those who had taken an active part in it. He was then questioned as to the object of his visit last August to Cæsarea, Yuzgat, Sivas, and other villages in the Sivas Vilayet in company with Kayaian. In reply he stated that as his school was closed for the summer holidays, he was at liberty to make a tour of inspection to the outlying stations which were connected with his mission work. This tour occupied some thirty-five days and he gave a detailed account of his doings during that time; he also stated that his object in taking a certain route was that he had a financial interest in a farm at a village called Bœurlan, to the proprietor of which he had, some six years ago, advanced a sum of about 100 liras, but for some time past he had not received any reply to his letters as to how the farm was working, and receiving no equivalent against his advance, he took this opportunity of paying a personal visit to the farm

in question to learn what was going on. He then described in detail his mission work and its object. He was then questioned about the money raised in England by his efforts. He stated that about 4,000*l.* had been raised for the object of building a hospital in Marsovan and of this sum he had received only 100*l.*, which had been disbursed gratuitously in relieving the sick and poor in Marsovan and district.

His replies to the President of the Court were given without any hesitation and his explanations of his movements were clear and straightforward. On his examination being concluded, Kayaian was recalled into Court, and the questions put to him were similar to those put to Thoumaian. He (Kayaian) answered all questions as clearly as Thoumaian had done, and confirmed in every detail Thoumaian's evidence.

This concluded the proceedings of the 27th and the Court adjourned to the 30th instant.

Nothing has been elicited from the prisoners who have been interrogated up to this date that could implicate Thoumaian in this movement with but one exception. One of the prisoners stated that a document touching on this movement was brought to him to sign. This document bore the signatures of Baron Mimi and Baron Varham. On asking whose these signatures were, he was told by the bearers of the document that they were those of Garabet Thoumaian and Ohannes Kayaian. He could not swear to these signatures but only state what was told to him.

From the evidence of some of the prisoners it seems quite possible that there is a confusion of names, and it is apparently clear that Artin Thoumaian has, in company with Audon Rishtoni, as a ringleader, taken an active part in this movement.

Thirty-two prisoners have undergone the preliminary examination, leaving twenty more to be dealt with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 78.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 140 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 7, 1893.

RUSTEM PASHA informed me to-day that he had received a telegram from Constantinople, dated the 5th instant, stating that the examination of Garabet Thoumaian and other Armenians who had been arrested in connection with recent events in Asiatic Turkey was now concluded, but that as the Court was proceeding to hear the witnesses, and the arguments of counsel, no decision could be come to as regards Thoumaian until the termination of this procedure, which must necessarily occupy several days.

The telegram went on to say that to make any exception in Thoumaian's favour would not only be illegal, but would also be objectionable for other reasons.

His Excellency also told me, that according to a despatch that had reached him, the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople had lately requested the Turkish Minister of Justice to prosecute certain persons who had spread the report of stones having been thrown at the coffin of an Armenian at Cesarea. The story, which has caused some sensation, was absolutely untrue, and was admitted to be so by the Patriarch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 79.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at Foreign Office, June 9.)

Sir, *Trebizond, May* 24, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Spadaro, reporting two recent cases of murder at Marsovan believed to have been committed by Armenians on Armenians for political reasons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le 22 Mai*, 1893.

J'AI l'honneur de vous confirmer ma lettre de ce mois relative aux affaires Arméniennes.

L'intérieur, du moins le Vilayet de Sivas, est calme apparemment depuis quelques temps; toutefois d'après certaines informations qui m'ont été dernièrement fournies, et qui sont très sûres et très sérieuses, cet état de choses qui cache le vrai esprit de la population Arménienne pourrait bien ne pas se maintenir longtemps et il y a lieu de s'attendre à de nouveaux troubles.

Deux assassinats commis par ordre des Comités Secrets Arméniens, dont l'existence ne saurait être contestée, dénotent chez ceux qui les ont ordonnés l'intention résolue d'écarter tout obstacle de la route qu'ils se sont tracée et qu'ils poursuivent en employant tous les moyens en leur pouvoir, même le crime.

Le 3 Mai courant, un Mercredi, vers 10 heures à la Turque (5 heures du soir), c'est-à-dire, en plein jour, le nommé Mighirditch Mirigianian a été assassiné en passant devant l'église Grecque de Mersifoun par deux hommes portant le costume de Ghurdjis. Ce M. Mirigianian, originaire d'Eghin, habitait dernièrement Ordou, et Bekir Pacha, ex-Caïmacan d'Ordou et qui vient d'être nommé Caïmacan de Mersifoun, l'avait amené avec lui pour lui servir d'espion auprès des Arméniens. Les membres du Comité s'étant aperçus des intentions du nommé Mirigianian décidèrent de le faire assassiner et c'est pour espionnage que le crime a été commis.

Le 7 Mai, un Dimanche, vers 2 heures à la Turque (9 heures du soir) le nommé Agop Ghulian, qui marchait dans la rue avec sa femme, a été également assassiné par deux individus, par ordre des Comités et pour avoir dévoilé leurs secrets.

L'on parle d'un troisième assassinat commis également dans les mêmes conditions, mais ce bruit mérite confirmation.

Vous remarquerez par là, M. le Consul, l'état d'esprit de la population Arménienne et les projets d'avenir qui doivent se concevoir, puisqu'il suffit aujourd'hui de la moindre indiscrétion ou divulgation d'un secret d'un Arménien auprès des autorités locales pour que sa mort soit aussitot décidée par un pouvoir occulte dont la puissance paraît grandir en raison des événements qui se déroulent dans l'intérieur, et qui pourrait peut-être dans certaines circonstances susciter de graves ennuis au Gouvernement Ottoman.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SPADARO.

No. 80.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at Foreign Office, June 9.)

Sir, *Angora, May 30*, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of yesterday's date.

The Court resumed its sittings to-day after its adjournment from the 27th instant.

Nothing further occurred to implicate Thoumaian and Kayayan.

Among the prisoners examined to-day were five who are charged with robbing the post, and killing two postmen, two zaptiehs, and one "arabadji." The evidence of these five prisoners was most conflicting and contradictory; they denied *in toto* their evidence given before the authorities at Cesarea and Marsovan, and stated that these statements were extracted from them by force.

The Court adjourned this evening without fixing a day for the resumal of the trials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 81.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 9.)

No. 227.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 30*, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of an extract from a private letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora on the subject of the Armenian trials, and giving some details respecting the prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Vice-Consul Newton's Private Letter.

(Extract.)

THERE are fifty-two prisoners (fifty-one men and one woman), originally there were fifty-three, but one has been sent to Constantinople. Each prisoner is examined separately. The preliminary examination will probably last some days longer.

The woman is charged with affixing the seditious placards on the walls of the houses at Everek.

A special room has been provided for the Court and is open to the public.

The prisoners are seated in the centre of the Court. They all appear to be well and do not seem any the worse for their confinement.

Thoumaian and Kayayian are defended by a local lawyer, one of the most capable of the seven engaged for the defence.

I am attending all sittings of the Court, and will keep your Excellency currently informed of all that goes on.

Angora, May 24, 1893.

No. 82.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 30*, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 229 of to day's date I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a further despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond on the subject of Armenian murders, and inclosing copies of communications from Dr. Jewett and Mr. Spadaro, giving such information as they are possessed of, which may tend to throw light on the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Trebizond, May 25*, 1893.

YOUR Excellency is aware from my despatch of the 26th ultimo that I wrote to Dr. Jewett and to Mr. Spadaro asking them to find out if possible what led to the murder of certain Armenians.

Copies of their answers I beg now to inclose herewith.

It will be seen that at least four Armenians had been assassinated, viz., Sahag Paghladounian, at Amassia, on the 25th February; and at Marsovan, Garabet Kirimlian, on the 20th March; Megherditch Mirigian, on the 3rd May; and Agop Ghulian on the 7th May. If not the four, the three last are reported to have been killed in broad daylight, and in the streets of Marsovan. Though the town is a small one, the assassins are not known to have been caught. In the midst of wholesale arrests that such criminals should have escaped may well lead one to suspect that the authorities are not particularly anxious to preserve the lives of their Armenian friends.

As it was with the placards so it is with these murders. Their authors are

unknown. It is believed nevertheless to be the work of the Armenian Secret Society. I am inclined to think rather that these troubles are not exclusively of Armenian origin. Whatever may be the political sentiments of these particular people, they would alone be but poor instruments of violence and disorder. Besides their weak, meek, and timid natures, they have of late years been too closely watched to permit their converting any national aspirations from that of a passive state to that of an active. If they have done so really it must have been from some internal as well as external pressure and support.

The secret Armenian organization spoken of cannot be in itself quite so powerful and invincible, leaving out the fact that the sphere of action selected is not that of Armenia proper. The Society, I believe, is identical with or a development of the one which originated at Tiflis about the end of 1880 under the name of "Discretion." It had agents then in these parts and under the encouragement of Russian Consular officials propagated the idea of Armenian national independence in Turkey. There is now no reasons to think that Russia is taking an active part in the present disturbances, while it is more than probable that with some kind of an Armenian Association a Moslem Secret Society co-exists and perhaps co-operates.

Be this as it may, the whole brunt of suspicions and accusations is thrown on the Armenians. Under the circumstances only one appeal is made. It is the appeal of the helpless and innocent not to be incriminated with the guilty. It is therefore to be hoped that at the Angora trials justice will be administered with the utmost and strictest impartiality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Sir, *Sivas, May* 13, 1893.

YOUR letter of the 26th April arrived yesterday. I will be glad to give you such information as I have. In my letter of the 7th April or thereabouts I gave such facts as were in my possession confirmatory of the theory that the posting of the placards was of Turkish origin. You will remember that you asked some questions on that point. I did not hold that the facts were conclusive, by any means.

That there is an Armenian Society of revolutionary tendencies I think there can be no doubt. Who the originators of the Society are I do not know. I have given you in a previous letter all the facts I have in regard to "the bearded man," who represented himself as the representative of "the London Society" and who organized the Society at Ghemerek, and I understand in other places also. It seems to me that the organization and management of the Society shows a striking resemblance to similar European Societies, and is rather beyond the capabilities of the Armenians as we see them.

That Thoumaian and Kayayan organized or managed the Society is not proved as far as the evidence has been given to me, and the Prosecutor-General has been good enough to show me a very large amount of the evidence. These two men, as near as I can get at it, are connected with the Society and made to be its organizers and managers, chiefly by means of the affidavits of certain prisoners (something like fifteen in number) in which they state that certain fictitious names signed to letters bearing the Society seal and dealing with matters connected with the Society, are the assumed names of Thoumaian and Kayayan. These affidavits, we are told, were obtained under very strong pressure. Then, too, it is perfectly possible that the persons who made the affidavits supposed these fictitious names were those of Thoumaian and Kayayan, but were misled or mistaken. The confession of Mardiros Kalousdian is one of the most valuable documents (or at least it was so represented) but Mardiros, while stating that Thoumaian and Kayayan talked in a revolutionary tone to the people of Gemerek, Cesarea, &c., yet he says Thoumaian and Kayayan organized no Society, and the people of the Society organized by "the bearded man" received no orders from, and did nothing under the orders of, Thoumaian and Kayayan.

The Procureur-Général has stated to me several times that many Armenians put up placards in total ignorance of the sort of work they were doing. They received the placards with instructions to put them up, and they followed the instructions. Some of them, he says, put them up thinking they were advertisements of medicine. The placards spoke of certain medicine. They were addressed to Osmanlis and signed "The Friends of Mahommedans in India."

In regard to the assassination of Armenians at Marsovan and Amassia, I understand that five such cases have occurred: one, Sahag, while I was there; one, Kirimlolu (Kirimlian) while I was at Samsoun, and three since, whose names I do not know.

I will give you all the facts I have regarding the three latter, quoting from reliable letters:—

"*Marsovan, May* 5.

"There has been another person, the third, shot here in the street in broad daylight. It happened at 10:30 Turkish on Wednesday (the 3rd May) in the little street near the Greek church. He died in about two hours. The man was an Armenian, a stranger (at Marsovan) from Ordou, had been here only about two weeks, was a friend of the Kaïmakam, and had been with him in the market just a little while before the deed was done. He was conscious for half-an-hour only and said he was not aware of having any enemies."

"*Amassia, May* 10.

"Things are getting worse day by day. The murdering of treacherous Armenians is done with much success. The last week two other fellows were killed at Marsovan, and another one here on Sunday evening. The murderers have not been discovered in any case."

I will give what facts I could gather in regard to the first two.

Sahag was shot the 25th February in the day-time on the street, probably by two men dressed like Russian emigrants (Mouhadjirs). For a long time after the murder there seemed to be no efforts made to discover or apprehend the guilty party. Now the Prosecutor-General says it was done by Armenians who have been sent to Angora.

Sahag was a notorious rascal. An Armenian admitted that he had ruined several respectable persons. Was arrested as a member of the Society. Is said to have turned State's evidence. Was employed by certain officials to try and induce persons in prison by offers of money and threats of giving damaging testimony against them, to testify against Thoumaian, Kayayan, and others. He was kept in the prison at night and allowed to go about the prison by day. He threatened to expose people, who claimed to be perfectly innocent, if they did not pay him money. He told a man he must raise 55*l.* for Hosref Pasha, or he would inform against him. The man refused; shortly after he was put in prison. Later he was released on the request of Mr. Newberry. A relative of Sahag reported that he overheard him say in his anti-mortem confession that Thoumaian and Kayayan were not in the Society.

Kirimlolu was a wealthy man who was more of a Turk in his affiliations than an Armenian, and probably not a Society member. His friends and associates were mostly Turks. He is said to have made his money by selling the plunder captured by Hosref Pasha when he was on the road. Memdouch Bey lived with him several weeks when he stayed at Marsovan one or two years ago. Kirimlolu was found dead on the street about the 20th March. Municipal physician examined him and certified that he died of apoplexy. Later, when he was being dressed for burial, the bullet wounds were found, one in the leg and one in the abdomen and back. The doctor said there was no bleeding from the wound in the leg and very little in the abdomen, and thought he might have died from apoplexy (he had had two previous attacks) induced by the fright of being shot or the wounds might have been made after death.

These two cases and also the one reported in the letter quoted from Marsovan do not necessarily show that the men were killed by fellow members of the Society because they revealed the secrets of the Society. On the other hand, I am informed that the order to put up placards was accompanied by a threat of personal harm to him who did not comply with the order, and at Marsovan I was informed that two men were marked by the Society to be assassinated, and that they did not dare to leave their houses.

I will leave you to draw your own conclusions and weigh the evidence as it seems best to you.

Query: who was "the bearded man?"

Yours, &c.,
(Signed) M. JEWETT.

P.S.—Later there is a rumour that the Protestant preacher at Amassia has been killed by the Turks, his body badly cut with swords. Don't know whether this

is a case previously reported or not. Have not had an opportunity to verify the rumour.

M. J.

Inclosure 3 in No. 82.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le 30 Avril*, 1893.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 26 de ce mois; en réponse au dernier paragraphe de votre communication je viens vous informer que le nommé Garabet Kirimlian a été assassiné par ordre des Comités Arméniens pour avoir dénoncé au Caïmacan de Mersifon leur intention d'afficher des placards.

Le nommé Sahag, au sujet duquel le Dr. Jewitt vous a écrit, n'est autre que S. Paghladounian, dont ma lettre du 23 de ce mois vous entretenait. Il a été assassiné à Amassia, également par ordre des Comités, pour avoir dénoncé leurs secrets à l'autorité locale. Il résulte de nouveaux renseignements que j'ai eus, que ce Sahag Paghladounian était un espion à la solde du Gouvernement Ottoman, chargé de le tenir au courant des agissements de ses coreligionnaires. Il se trouvait tantôt à Amassia tantôt à Mersifon. Le Mutessarif d'Amassia qui a informé le Caïmacan de Mersifon du projet qu'avaient conçu les Arméniens d'afficher les dits placards en a été prévenu lui-même par Sahag Paghladounian presque en même temps que Garabet Kirimlian en donnait avis au Caïmacan de Mersifon. Il y a eu donc deux assassinats motivés par une seule et même cause—la trahison: l'un à Amassia, l'autre à Mersifon; et le Dr. Jewett en ne vous signalant que celui commis sur la personne de Sahag Paghladounian, ignorait très probablement que le nommé Garabet Kirimlian avait été également assassiné.

Dans ma lettre de 13 Février dernier j'avais eu l'honneur, en vous faisant part des événements qui venaient de se produire, d'ajouter que les Arméniens accusaient les Turcs d'avoir placardé les affiches séditieuses. Ces derniers, de leur côté, imputaient, au contraire, aux Arméniens cet acte séditieux. Je disais en outre qu'il était bien difficile d'établir nettement la part des responsabilités de chacun. La situation s'est éclaircie depuis lors et l'enquête de Mr. Newberry tendrait à faire ressortir la culpabilité des Arméniens dans les dernières manifestations. Le Délégué des États-Unis peut avoir raison jusqu'à un certain point, car il possédait tous les éléments voulus pour mener à bien l'enquête dont il a été chargé et pour en dégager la vérité.

Cependant les Arméniens, mécontents du régime auquel ils sont soumis malgré les promesses qui ont été faites de modifier leur situation et voyant que leurs protestations platoniques n'ont jamais été prises en considération par la Sublime Porte, cherchent depuis plusieurs années déjà à donner à leurs revendications une forme concrète en créant des Comités qui dirigent les masses et agitent le pays. Ils attirent à eux tous les mécontents, leurs coreligionnaires aussi bien que les Turcs que le régime actuel a sacrifiés, et dans la question des placards affichés, les Arméniens n'ont pas été seuls. Il y a eu avec eux des Softas expulsés de Constantinople et plusieurs officiers de l'armée Ottomane. La manifestation du 18 Janvier qui devait prendre des proportions considérables ayant avorté toute la responsabilité en est retombée sur les Arméniens. La preuve de la connivence des Turcs n'a pas pu être donnée que je sache, autrement je vous en aurais informé.

Il n'y a rien d'étonnant à supposer que le Caïmacan de Mersifon était de connivence avec les Arméniens, car comment expliquer sa conduite dans cette affaire si ce n'est par une négligence d'autant plus coupable chez un fonctionnaire de l'État qu'il était déjà prévenu de la manifestation, et officiellement par son supérieur d'Amassia, et secrètement par le nommé Garabet Kirimlian. Toutefois la connivence des Turcs n'a pas pu encore être démontrée d'une manière péremptoire dans toutes ces affaires en ce qui concerne le Vilayet de Sivas, et ce sont les Arméniens qui en ont souffert.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SPADARO.

No. 83.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.—(*Received at Foreign Office, June 9.*)

Sir, *Angora, June 1*, 1893.

IN continuance of my despatch of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to give a more detailed account of that day's trial.

One of the five prisoners who are charged with robbery and murder stated before the Court that he, at the instigation of Andon Rishtoni, wrote a paper to the effect that he, in company with the other four prisoners, murdered an "arabadji" on the road between Angora and Yuzgat, and one of them took the horses and "araba" to Tokat and sold them there, and pocketed the money. Afterwards they armed themselves and attacked the Cesarea post, killing the postman and one of the escort; they then attacked the Tchoroum post, killing the postman and afterwards a devrent [*sic*] zaptieh. The writer of the paper stated in Court that he was not one of the gang, but had heard of these murders and robberies, and under a promise from Rishtoni that he would procure him a salaried appointment in this movement, he wrote out the paper in question. This document was found upon him when arrested.

Rishtoni denies this story. His version as given before the Court is that one night while in bed at the Monastery at Debrend he heard some travellers arrive; on getting up to see who they were, he found the five prisoners with Pappas Daniel, head of the monastery, seated in a room and one of the prisoners writing this document. On hearing partially the contents of the document he said he should leave the Monastery at once. Pappas Daniel told him that the prisoners had just returned from a marauding expedition and had shot the postman, and he had better not leave the Monastery as the police might be on the watch.

Pappas Daniel denies this, and states that he had no information of the affair, and was not aware of what travellers came to the Monastery.

The prisoners admit being together in certain places, and state that they did not kill the "arabadji," but that he died on the way, and they buried him by the roadside. They did not give information to the authorities of the affair. One of the prisoners admitted in Court that he took the "araba" and horses to Tokat and sold them. All of the five prisoners deny shooting the postmen and zaptiehs.

The document found on one of the prisoners implicates them very clearly, and there does not seem to be any doubt as to their guilt.

When the Court resumes, something else touching on this affair may transpire.

Thus the matter remained at the close of the proceedings of the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, June 1*, 1893.

I TRUST my letters under private cover are not an intrusion; there are some items bearing on this Armenian affair which I cannot very well embody in an official despatch.

Yesterday I had a private conversation with Arif Bey, the Procureur-Général, about this case, Thoumaian's in particular. He told me they have sufficient evidence to implicate both Thoumaian and Kayayan in this movement. It is only natural for the authorities to say their case is good. It is quite possible the Government may have been misled as to the identity of Garabet and Artin, the latter having eluded the authorities they may be trying to put the onus of the affair on to Garabet, in the absence of Artin, or it may be that owing to Artin's known bad reputation he may have used Garabet's respectable name to lend greater weight to the schemes he had in view. There does not appear from the statements of the prisoners to be any doubt as to Artin's action in this movement; he appears to have been an active ringleader.

But as to Kayayan, there is no confusion of names in his case, and the charges against him are the same as those against Garabet Thoumaian, one as President and the other as Secretary of this movement.

I am doing all I can for Thoumaian, that is within the narrow limits allowed me. Anything that has transpired in Thoumaian's favour during the trial I have, as far

as I prudently could, kept before the authorities, and I have impressed upon his counsel the absolute necessity of keeping well in mind any weak points on the part of the prosecution that could advantageously be put forward on his behalf.

With respect to the subject of torture, mentioned in my despatch No. 14, it is quite likely that undue pressure may have been put upon some of the prisoners to make them confess or to make certain statements. One prisoner stated in Court that his feet were tied and he was suspended from the ceiling with a rope and his head on the ground; he was beaten and rather than undergo further punishment he signed the paper containing statements which he now denies.

It is extremely difficult in the face of such contradictory statements to arrive anywhere near the truth, or even to form the slightest idea as to the probable result of the trial.

The evidence tendered so far will require a deal of sifting before any definite conclusion can be arrived at, in some cases at least. The case of the five prisoners charged with murder seems clear and convicting, but in other cases there appears to be some doubt. However, as the trial proceeds further light may be shown on some of the apparently doubtful cases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 84.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 244.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 5, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves, reporting on the condition of the districts of Yuzgat and Sivas and on the Armenian seditious movement in those places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 84.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Sivas, May 21, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on my way from Angora to Sivas I halted for two days at Yuzgat, which is one of the places principally affected by the recent Armenian disturbances. The Mutessarif of Yuzgat, Shevki Bey, invited me to stay at his house, and I had also opportunities of meeting several of the leading Armenians of the town, so that I am in a position to report pretty faithfully what really occurred there.

Almost all the incidents pointing to the existence of a seditious organization occurred within a period of ten or fifteen days, just before and after the New Year. Seditious placards in large numbers were posted all over the town, incendiary attempts were made upon two or three churches in the neighbourhood, two or three small bands of well armed men appeared at different points and made attacks upon post escorts and isolated police stations, and the cannon which serves for saluting purposes at the Bairam feast and other occasions was dismounted one night and rolled down the hill near the town, upon which it stands.

The then Mutesarif, Zia Pasha, appears to have rather lost his head, and an unnecessarily large number of arrests were made, about eighty Armenians of Yuzgat being thrown into prison, against many of whom no doubt little or no evidence was forthcoming.

Matters were not mended by the appearance on the scene of two Commissioners from the Imperial Court, officers of no great experience in administrative and political work, and a condition of affairs nearly allied to panic prevailed in consequence of the exaggerated importance given to the matter, the Mussulmans fearing a general rising of the Christians, who were reported to be armed and organized, and the latter being terrified at the idea of reprisals on the part of the Turks.

Eventually, as your Excellency is aware, more moderate councils prevailed at Constantinople, and it was decided to amnesty the great majority of the prisoners.

Zia Pasha, whose conduct at Yuzgat had apparently failed to give satisfaction, was recalled, and Shevki Bey was appointed in his place. This official is a brother of Hassan Fehmy Pasha, and has had considerable experience of judicial and administrative work. He bears, I believe, an excellent character for integrity, and has given proof of energy tempered by moderation which specially fit him for the carrying out of a conciliatory policy. Shortly after his arrival seventy-two out of the eighty Yuzgat prisoners were released, subject to their renewing their oath of allegiance to His Majesty the Sultan, and only eight of the most seriously implicated were held for trial at Angora. To these must now be added thirteen more, whom I met on the way to Angora, four of whom were taken red-handed in an armed attack on the police at the bridge of Shah Rouch over the Kizil Irmak, the remainder being accused of complicity in the same affair. There still remain four or five prisoners charged with minor political offences in Yuzgat gaol and no others in the rest of the district.

The after effects still experienced from the events of the past winter may be briefly summarized as follows: There is a natural feeling of soreness on the part of some of the Armenian inhabitants, who, though innocent, were imprisoned on suspicion, subjected to a certain amount of harsh treatment, and finally set at liberty after a detention of forty to fifty days. The Mussulmans of the neighbourhood are still in a somewhat excited and suspicious state, arising from the palpable attempts on the part of the conspirators to involve them in the affair, by making it appear as if it was they who were responsible for various acts of incendiarism and violence which can now be distinctly traced to Armenian hands. In consequence of this feeling the Armenians of Yuzgat are now afraid to visit the country districts for the purpose of trading or of collecting money owing to them by the village Turks, many of whom are deeply in the books of the Armenian money-lenders and tradesmen, and business of all sorts has been greatly hampered by this sense of insecurity. Shevki Bey assured me that a continuance of this state of affairs would go far to destroy the commercial prosperity of the district, which depended mainly upon the capital and energy of the Armenians, and added that having no desire to govern a bankrupt sandjak, he would use his best endeavours to put an end to it, by calming the Turks as much as he could, and by affording police assistance to the Armenians for the recovery of their just debts.

The only overt act of a revolutionary nature which has been recently reported in that part of the country, is the posting of a few seditious placards at Maden, in the Keskin district, about the 4th May. These documents were in the Turkish language, and written in Armenian character.

I learn that at Cesarea order has been thoroughly re-established, but that a similar feeling of insecurity, affecting business in the country districts, prevails there as in the neighbourhood of Yuzgat.

You Excellency will perceive that, although it may be said that so far as the Yuzgat district is concerned, some of the authorities acted at the outset with indiscreet precipitation, and that others may have behaved with undue harshness towards the prisoners under their charge, as I have already reported to you in my letters from Angora. Yet from the time the amnesty was proclaimed, much has been done to improve the condition of affairs, and commendable moderation has been shown. The number of persons concerned in the seditious practices reported must largely exceed that of the political prisoners detained at Angora, and the local authorities must be given due credit for the desire to avoid harmful exaggeration of the extent of the revolutionary movement, and for their endeavours to assuage the sentiments of race hatred and religious fanaticism called forth by the criminal designs of the Armenian Secret Societies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 84.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Sivas, May 24, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 21st instant, the day after my arrival at Sivas, I went to call upon the Vali, Khalil Bey, and met with a very courteous reception from his Excellency. Khalil Bey was Vali of Van until last summer, when he was recalled, it was said, in disgrace. He was for many years in the Turkish Con-

sular and Diplomatic Services abroad, speaks French fluently, and is a man of considerable culture and charm of manner.

When the conversation turned upon the recent Armenian troubles, the focus of which was at Marsovan in this province, his Excellency favoured with his views at some length, and, so far as the general lines of the question are concerned, these views seemed to be characterized by much common sense and moderation. A seditious movement, no doubt, existed, which did not in itself threaten serious danger to the State, except by its possible indirect consequences, which it was necessary to take measures to forestall, and it was essential to avoid magnifying the seriousness of the affair, or acting in such a way as to excite animosities, which it would afterwards be difficult to allay. The Armenians themselves would be the greatest losers by any such movements of a seditious nature, and the Turkish Empire would also naturally be a sufferer, while the enemies of Turkey would be sure to profit at their expense. The leaders in such movements should, if possible, be punished with severity rather than their followers, who had been led astray by them through ignorance or under the influence of intimidation.

I was able most cordially to agree with the Vali so far, but presently an allusion to the Marsovan College and the prisoners Thoumaian and Kayayan, evoked from his Excellency the statement that those two men were the real leaders and instigators of the late movement, and that it was essential that they should be made an example of. He said that these men had taken advantage of the innocence and unworldliness of the missionaries to carry on their nefarious work under the protection afforded by the American College, and that there was ample evidence to prove that Thoumaian was the leading spirit and director of the Revolutionary Committee, and Kayayan his principal assistant; and he added that he trusted no pressure would be exercised by foreign Powers upon the Porte for the purpose of saving these dangerous criminals from the punishment they merited.

I replied that I was sure no undue pressure would be used, and that, as far as Her Majesty's Government were concerned, I knew their only desire would be that these prisoners should have a fair trial, and if their guilt was proved, that they should be punished as they deserved.

Noticing that Khalil Bey appeared to speak with so much certainty of Thoumaian's guilt, I inquired what grounds he had for his belief, and found that the "proofs" of which he spoke so confidently, resolved themselves into mere suspicions and conjectures; in fact I was quite surprised at the absence of a judicial spirit he showed in considering the evidence against Thoumaian. The fact of Thoumaian's correspondence with his wife, who is now in England, being numbered, and of his declaring his inability to produce eighty-six of her letters to him, alleging that he had burnt them, was advanced as a conclusive proof that those letters must have been treasonable, and the fund collected by Mme. Thoumaian in England, ostensibly for a hospital at Marsovan, must, he said, have been intended for seditious purposes, because no such hospital existed as yet at Marsovan.

It became clear to me that so far as this part of the case is concerned, namely, the assumption that native members of the American College at Marsovan were at the head of the Revolutionary Committee, the Vali had relied upon the reports of his subordinates who were deputed to investigate what took place at Marsovan, and from all that I have been able to learn his confidence was ill-placed. Besides the local authorities of Marsovan, the principal officials concerned in this inquiry have been Khosrew Pasha, the Chief of the Sivas Gendarmerie, a man whose antecedents will not bear inspection, and the Procureur-Général of the vilayet. I believe that there can be no doubt that both these officials were strongly prejudiced against the college, and have endeavoured, by all means in their power, to demonstrate that it was the centre of sedition in Marsovan. To this end pressure has, I believe, been put upon several of the prisoners, by threats or promises of release and reward, to make statements and sign affidavits implicating Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan, which have been accepted by the Vali as conclusive of their guilt, and his Excellency has been committed to a line of conduct which depends for its justification upon the establishment of these charges in the course of the trial at Angora. The influence exercised upon the Vali by Khosrew Pasha seems to have been a most pernicious one, and his conduct throughout the whole affair arbitrary and irregular in the extreme.

Khalil Bey spoke with some bitterness of the attitude of Dr. Jewett, the United States' Consul at Sivas, who had, he said, magnified the gravity of the Marsovan affair, and refused his co-operation in trying to arrange it with as little publicity as possible. He said he had proposed to Dr. Jewett to inspect M. Thoumaian's papers at the college, promising that if he could then give his word of honour as a gentleman that

they were of an innocent character, he would admit that there was no ground to proceed against Thoumaian; but that Dr. Jewett had refused to do so. I may mention that Dr. Jewett categorically denies that any such proposal was made to him by the Vali, or that he has in any way refused to assist the Turkish authorities, or acted in any spirit of hostility towards them.

From all sides I learn that there exists among Armenians in this province the same feeling of uneasiness and insecurity as I have reported to exist in the neighbourhood of Yuzgat, and it will require time and watchful attention on the part of the authorities to remove the causes of this feeling. From Marsovan especially my latest information is not of a satisfactory character. The new Kaimakan is said to be well disposed; but the authorities appear powerless to break up the powerful and well-organized Secret Society which still exists there, and gives occasional signs of life by the murder of suspected informers, and similar lawless acts, the perpetrators of which remain undiscovered. The designs I hear attributed to these conspirators make me apprehensive of the American missionaries and the college at Marsovan being made to suffer by them in some way. Their aims and modes of action appear to be quite of a Nihilistic and subversive tendency rather than nationalist and patriotic.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, there are no longer any prisoners detained in Sivas or elsewhere in the vilayet in connection with the placard incident, but there are about twenty-five Armenian prisoners in Sivas gaol for previous political offences, thirteen of whom are under sentence, and the remainder still await trial. The latter have been confined for periods varying from four to seven months.

I propose to leave Sivas for Kharput on the 27th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 85.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at Foreign Office, June 12.)

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Angora, June 5, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch No. 15 of the 1st instant.

The trial of the Armenians was resumed on the 3rd instant, and examination of witnesses for the prosecution was commenced.

The proceedings were devoid of interest, and nothing further than what I have already informed your Excellency transpired affecting Thoumaian's case.

On behalf of the prosecution, about 30 witnesses have arrived here from the districts of Marsovan and Cæsarea, and for the next few days the Court will be occupied with the examination of the witnesses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 86.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 145 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 14, 1893.*

THE Turkish Ambassador informed me to-day that four Armenians belonging to the village of Kouri-Bachi, in the Province of Van, were murdered some time ago at a place called Dolon-Déressi, and that the crime was at first attributed to a brigand band of Kurds, as the murderers wore the dress of that race. The Report of the Special Commission sent at once by the Turkish authorities to investigate the matter had, however, just been received, and from this it appeared that the Commissioners had traced footsteps from the scene of the crime to a shepherd's house close to the convent of Yédi-Klissé, to which it belonged. The place contained many marks of blood, the ears of the victims were nailed above the door, and there were signs of its having been inhabited during the previous night. The Commissioners then proceeded to the convent accompanied by the relatives of the murdered men, who were convinced that the assassins were Armenians known to the people of the convent, and called upon the clergy to surrender them. As they formulated their accusations in a

Memorial to the Governor of the province, the watchmen and shepherds of the monastery had been arrested and handed over to justice.

His Excellency concluded by saying that everything tended to show that this crime, as well as several others, had been committed by Armenians disguised as Kurds, and acting at the instigation of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 87.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June 16, 1893, 1 P.M.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram, I should be glad to learn whether, in your Lordship's opinion, I should try to obtain either a free pardon or, at all events, a mitigation of the sentences passed on Professor Thoumaian and M. Kayayan. Though it is, in the last degree, improbable that the sentence of death would be carried out, still exile to some distant part of the Empire might possibly be substituted.

The German Ambassador is interested in Thoumaian's case, and I should propose to consult his Excellency in the matter.

No. 88.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June 16, 1893.*

THE sentences passed on Armenians on trial at Angora, as reported in your telegrams Nos. 93 and 94 of to-day, will produce a painful impression here, and Her Majesty's Government are deeply concerned at the news of them.

Before instructing you to make any representation at the Porte, we must await Mr. Newton's Reports of the proceedings. You should, however, if necessary, pending a full consideration of all the circumstances, do your utmost to prevent the execution or banishment of the prisoners.

No. 89.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June 17, 1893, 7:30 P.M.*

THE Legal Adviser of the Embassy informs me, with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 52, that before being executed, the sentence of the Angora Court must be confirmed by the "Cour de Cassation" here. I have some doubts as to these strict legal formalities being necessarily observed, as the Tribunal at Angora was a special one; I hope, however, that the usual rule will be followed. No immediate action need in any case be expected.

I have telegraphed to Vice-Consul Newton for fuller details, and am awaiting his answer.

No. 90.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June 19, 1893.*

WE understand that the evidence against the Armenians tried at Angora is entirely inadequate for conviction. If on examining it we come to that conclusion, it will be our duty to make the strongest representations for the release of the prisoners.

You should mention at the Porte that the result of the trials has caused a strong impression here, and that you presume the sentence will be reviewed by the Court of Cassation.

No. 91.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 263.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 17, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton respecting the trial of the Armenian prisoners at Angora.

Mr. Newton's despatch of the 12th instant only reached me on the 16th instant, and I telegraphed to your Lordship the news it contained as to the sentences passed on the prisoners. It is to be regretted that Mr. Newton did not telegraph the result of the trial instead of intrusting his communication to the post, which appears to be at this moment very dilatory between Angora and the capital.

I have asked Mr. Newton to furnish me with explanations on this point, and have requested him to send me particulars as to the proceedings during the last stages of the trial, together with a full statement of the findings of the Court, and the grounds on which its decisions were based. The Reports which Mr. Newton has sent to this Embassy as to the case against Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan, copies of which have been forwarded to your Lordship, did not lead to the belief that the extreme penalty would be imposed on the accused; indeed, so far as could be judged from the summary of the evidence sent in Mr. Newton's despatch of the 29th ultimo, the case against Mr. Thoumaian did not appear to be a strong one.

I believe that the decision of the Tribunal, although specially constituted to try the cases, is not final, and will have to be reviewed by the Cour de Cassation here. On this point I am taking legal opinion, and should my surmise be correct, some time will elapse before the case can be considered definitely determined, and before any sentence can be put into execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, June 10, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 6th instant.

Since that date no progress has been made in Thoumaian's case.

The Court resumes its sittings to-day, and the case for the defence will probably commence.

Particulars of to-day's proceedings will be forwarded on Monday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, June 12, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 10th instant.

The sentences on the Armenians were delivered to-day as follows:—

"On Thoumaian, Kayayan, and some thirteen others, the extreme sentence of the law has been passed, that of death; eleven have been acquitted, and the remainder sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from two to fifteen years."

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 92.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 23.)

(Extract.) *Sivas, May* 18, 1893.

THE following is a free translation of a Petition which I received last Sunday:—

"*Village of Zipni upon Emlak Lands, Nissan* 26, 1893.

"To the United States' Consul at Sivas.

"Illustrious Benefactor,

"During the entire months of January and February, the Government tax-collectors gave us distress in our village. They were the Emin Mulazim, from the village of Bull, Hassan (a member of the Court), and Osman Aga, the Mudir of our township, together with three zaptiehs. Claiming that we had not paid the taxes on our land (upon which we depend for daily food), they beat us again and again with clubs, threw us stripped upon the snow of the street, and, entering the houses, took beds, copper utensils, yarma, bulgur, and wool—everything that they can. Then during three or four days they left us bound, hungry, and thirsty; they beat us, called us swine, and insulted our religion. 'Give us money,' they said, 'and if you have no money, sell your lands, the honour of your wives and daughters.' At last, leaving us nothing of our goods, they went away. Now, in our distress—our wives and children stripped naked and destroyed, for the love of God and the Churches, and appealing to Him, we come with weeping to your feet. In the way He shows best to your Governments we wait your pity."

(Signed) (Eight names, including the priest.)

The above is a fair example of a very common sort of complaint.

A letter from Amassia says, in regard to the murder of an Armenian in that place on the 7th instant: "His name was Gulian, a teacher (possibly an informer): was murdered at 2 o'clock in the morning by thirty or forty knife cuts, mostly about the neck, in an open space or dunghill in front of a place called Chillahané. His coat was taken away from him. The assassins are not found."

May 26.—Complaint is made of serious outrages committed upon the Armenians of Dendil, chiefly in connection with gathering taxes. Some five or six Dendil men in prison on the placard business. They were liberated by the amnesty, but had promised to pay some money which they did not do. Some of them have been rearrested. The reports indicate that since the placard affair the Armenians in the villages have suffered an unusual amount of trouble from officials, zaptiehs, &c., in consequence of the lawless attitude assumed by the Turks towards them in consequence of the late troubles.

At Marsovan certain men who have been in hiding from Government have grown somewhat bolder since the granting of amnesty to "revolutionists" in hiding, and it is said they are extorting money from wealthy Armenians for Nihilistic purposes, and that they are making serious threats, even against the American missionaries.

Another man was attacked in Marsovan, but escaped, and is said to have found shelter in the prison.

To-morrow I expect to go with Mr Graves on a trip to Kharput. Expect to be away about twenty days.

No. 93.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 259.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 13, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch and extract from private letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora respecting Armenian affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 93.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

(Extract.) *Angora, June* 6, 1893.

THE trial is dragging along very slowly. Since the commencement on the 22nd ultimo, the Court has sat seven times only; had the sittings been consecutive, the case would probably have been near its close by this time.

The trial was resumed yesterday, and the examination of witnesses for the prosecution was continued. No fresh evidence was forthcoming to affect Thoumaian's case either way, nor has anything transpired to throw any further light on some of the apparently doubtful cases.

The Court will probably sit once more this week, then will adjourn until next week, when the case for the defence will commence.

From what I can learn, the trial may probably drag on for another ten or fifteen days.

Inclosure 2 in No. 93.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

(Extract.) *Angora, June* 6, 1893.

I HAVE to mention that a murderous outrage was committed at Yuzgat a few days ago—a respectable merchant named Bedros Agopian was murdered. The particulars are as follows:—

A gang of seven men, all Turks, broke open the walls of this man's house during the night, and entered the room where he, his wife, and children were sleeping. The inmates thought the object of these men was robbery, and told them to take any valuables there were in the house. They replied that their object was murder, not robbery, and forthwith attacked Bedros with their knives and hacked him to death. The wife, in her attempts to save her husband, had one of her eyes cut out. This man had not taken any part in this Armenian movement.

This crime is evidently the outcome of a bitter feeling against the Armenians, which has been somewhat accentuated by recent events. No other reason can be assigned at present for this outrage. Five men have been arrested on suspicion, but two—the supposed ringleaders—are at liberty.

There is a latent feeling of hostility towards the Christians in some districts, and should the authorities fail to cope exemplarily with the perpetrators of these reprisals, other serious crimes will undoubtedly follow.

The authorities are watchful to a certain extent, but more might be done to insure public safety.

No. 94.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 262. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 17, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorandum from Colonel Chermside, reporting that there is an intention on the part of the Ottoman Government of establishing one of the sons of the late Sheikh Obeydullah in a district near to the Persian frontier.

I will endeavour to learn some further particulars in regard to this project, and will forward a copy of Colonel Chermside's Memorandum to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Memorandum 11.

DURING Sheikh Obeydullah's movement (1880-82) his son, Sheikh Abd-ul-Kadir, was most active, and the moving spirit of the invasion of Western Persia. Another son, Sheikh Sidik, took no active part.*

Sheikh Obeydullah† was exiled to Taif-Assir, South Arabia, and with him Abd-ul-Kadir. Sheikh Sidik has long been at Constantinople.

I hear on good authority (Kurdish) that Sheikh Abd-ul-Kadir has been recently recalled to Constantinople by the Sultan; also that there is a question of re-establishing one of the two brothers at Neri, in Eastern Kurdistan, near the Persian frontier, in the abandoned residence of Obeydullah, and of assigning again the revenues of some of the neighbouring hamlets and villages to the maintenance of the Sheikh's establishment.

The other brother would remain at Constantinople.

This project might, if executed, be considered a very unfriendly measure by Persia.

A policy of some activity is being directed on that frontier, chiefly from the Palace.

The Turkish Consular Representatives have been increased. There was before, I think, a Consul-General at Senna or Kermanshah. There are now representatives, —mostly, I think, military—at Kermanshah, Senna, Soorig Balukh, and Khoi, the latter a staff officer, quite recently appointed.

A Kurdish Chief, a Turkish subject, was caught in Persia not long since on a raid. By order from the capital, the Governor of Sulemieursh paid the indemnity demanded to the Persians and received the Chief. He was released unpunished by Palace order, against the Grand Vizier's wishes.

It is asserted, but I have no details, that the Kurdish Chiefs (Persian subjects) who are hostile to Persia are well received, and made much of if they take refuge in Turkey.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Colonel.*

June 16, 1893.

No. 95.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 270.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 18, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 263 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of a despatch and of a letter addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Newton to Sir C. Ford in regard to the trial of the Armenian prisoners at Angora. The letter from Mr. Newton will, I fear, but deepen the painful impression originally caused by the first announcement of the results of the trial, and will afford one more instance of the difficulty of obtaining in Turkey a fair and impartial trial in cases where the charges are of a political nature.

Mr. Newton lays stress on the inadequacy of the defence on the part of the local lawyers, and his remarks on this point are, doubtless, well founded. On the other hand, I believe that the friends of Mr. Thoumaian were unable to find any legal practitioner at Constantinople who was disposed to undertake the duty of defending the accused.

Turning from the unfortunate aspects which the trial presents from whatever point of view it is regarded, I would beg your Lordship's permission to make a few observations on the subsequent developments which the case may take. I cannot believe that the extreme penalty will be inflicted on the two condemned Professors, Thoumaian and Kayayan. If my information be correct, that the decisions of the Tribunal must be submitted to the "Cour de Cassation" here before being put into execution, it is to be hoped that the Supreme Court of the Empire will weigh the evidence more carefully, and with greater impartiality, than apparently was the case with the

* Report of mine printed by Foreign Office, 1882.

† Sheikh Obeydullah died at Taif some years ago.

specially constituted Commission at Angora. The whole of the *procès-verbaux* will have to be transmitted to the "Cour de Cassation," and I trust that the Sublime Porte will afford an opportunity to a Dragoman from this Embassy to inspect the portions of them which affect those cases in which public interest has been chiefly aroused. During the time which must elapse before the cases of Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan are finally determined, it is to be hoped that they will be treated with leniency and consideration. Rumours of unnecessary harsh treatment reached me yesterday, and I have communicated with Mr. Vice-Consul Newton, requesting him to urge the Vali that no severity be exercised towards them.

Abeddin Pasha has a good reputation for just dealing and humanity, and I trust that he will allow no cause to arise for complaints on that head.

I am visiting the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs the day after to-morrow, and I propose to take the opportunity of conveying to them, as a matter of personal opinion, the very painful impression which the results of the trial will produce outside the Ottoman Empire, and I will bring before them such considerations as obviously arise out of the circumstances of the trial.

I will await your Lordship's instructions before making further representations, as I do not wish by any action on my part to anticipate the views which Her Majesty's Government may take of the trial, after they are put in possession of all the information which has reached this Embassy. I am under no apprehension that any immediate steps injurious to the condemned will be taken by the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, June* 13, 1893.

IN my despatch of yesterday's date, I had the honour to give briefly the sentences on the Armenians, which requires a slight correction. The official result is:—

14 acquitted, 21 sentenced to terms of imprisonment, varying from five to fifteen years, and 17, including Thoumaian and Kayayan, sentenced to death.

I have, &c.

(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir Clare Ford.

(Private.)

Dear Sir, *Angora, June* 13, 1893.

IN continuation of my official despatch of the above date, I have the honour to give, under this private cover, fuller details of the termination of the Armenian trial.

The case for the defence ended rather abruptly, although there were seven lawyers defending the prisoners; their pleading on behalf of their clients was short and brief. They did not make any efforts to seize upon the weak points in the evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution, and it seemed as though they had arrived at a foregone conclusion, and anticipated the result of the trial. I can only express my opinion that the engaging of local lawyers was a mere farce. The lawyer defending Thoumaian was appointed by the Vali. In my despatch of the 10th May, I mentioned the probable action of the local counsel, and the result has justified my remarks. A local lawyer, let him be honest and anxious to do justice to his client, could not, without probably sacrificing his practice, plead the cause of the prisoners as fully as he might.

I will now take Thoumaian's case, coupling with him Kayayan.

The charges against him I have already recapitulated in my private letter of the 10th May, and nothing further has been adduced to add to them.

From the statement of the thirty-four witnesses brought forward by the prosecution not a single atom of evidence was adduced against Thoumaian, nor has the

slightest attempt been made to prove the charges. Andon Rishtoni, the ringleader in the movement, stated in Court that he did not know Thoumaian, nor had he seen him or spoken to him previous to his arrest, nor have any of the other prisoners, some of whom admit taking an active part in the affair, seen or spoken to Thoumaian respecting the movement, nor has the slightest tittle of evidence been brought forward to prove even an indiscreet action on his part that could in an indirect way connect him with sedition.

The charges of murder against five of the prisoners seem to have been clearly proved, and the Court has included Thoumaian in the same category without the slightest evidence to prove that he was an accessory to the crime.

In the face of the statements of the prisoners before the Court, and in the absence of any evidence to prove his connection with the movement, it seems as if the authorities had made up their minds, evidence or no evidence, to convict him. If they convicted him on the evidence before the Court, I can only say that it is a gross miscarriage of justice. If on the other hand they have evidence implicating him, why not have brought it forward openly and subjected it to proof.

From my close observance of the case and weighing the evidence brought forward, I cannot but express my opinion that he is innocent of the crime of which he is convicted.

It is to be hoped that Thoumaian's friends will bring these facts before the authorities at Constantinople.

The greatest commiseration and sympathy must be felt for him, and instead of intriguing against the Government, he was carrying on a good work of enlightenment for the benefit of his fellow-creatures.

I now turn to a general view of the whole case.

The prisoners were not allowed to make any lengthy explanations relative to their individual cases. They were allowed to make a few comments, but, on entering minutely into details, were at once stopped by the President.

None of the witnesses for the prosecution were cross-examined by the defending counsel; they were briefly questioned by the President only, and some of the evidence would not hold water if the cross-examination had been in the hands of a capable and independent lawyer.

The witnesses gave their evidence in such a manner that it led me to believe that they were instructed what answers to give to the questions put to them by the President. Although some of them gave their evidence reluctantly, others seemed to give it with a view of saving their own necks, having once tasted the effects of a Turkish prison.

The witnesses were part of those who were originally arrested and afterwards liberated.

The Court seemed to have taken it for granted that cross-examination was unnecessary, and accepted the evidence as conclusive and convicting.

Not a single witness for the defence was brought forward, and no opportunity seems to have been given to the prisoners to bring witnesses on their behalf. Some further opportunity might reasonably have been allowed them to make, at least as far as they could, some effort to defend themselves. From the beginning to the end there has not been the slightest show of defence. It seems as though a conviction was determined upon from the first, and the hearing of the trial was merely a formal matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 96.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 274.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 21, 1893.*

I CALLED yesterday at the Sublime Porte, accompanied by Sir Alfred Sandison, and first visited the Grand Vizier. I informed his Highness that I had come to speak to him on a serious matter which had created a most painful impression in my country. I alluded, I said, to the recent decisions of the Tribunal at Angora, which had condemned to death two Armenian Professors, Thoumaian and Kayayan, for alleged acts of sedition. I could not conceal from his Highness that these exceedingly severe

sentences had been passed, according to information which I had received from impartial persons who had been present at the trials, on quite insufficient evidence, and I was confident that when the reports which I had forwarded to your Lordship reached London, the painful impression to which I had referred would be but deepened. His Highness replied that His Majesty the Sultan had given stringent orders that the trials at Angora should be conducted with the strictest fairness and impartiality, and that once the affair had been referred to the Tribunal no authority could interfere with the course of justice. The cases had not reached their final stage. The decisions of the Tribunal would have to be submitted to the "Cour de Cassation," and should it be found that any irregularity or miscarriage of justice had occurred, I could rest assured that it would be remedied. Moreover, absolute confidence should be placed in the clemency of the Sultan, whose sense of justice had been shown on many previous occasions. His Highness added that from what he had heard, sufficiently condemnatory evidence had been brought forward against the two professors. I replied that I did not wish to enter into a discussion of the details of the trial as we had not the *procès-verbaux* before us; all that I wished to do at present was to earnestly impress on his Highness the great shock which would be caused not only in England, but throughout Europe and the United States, on learning that two professors, whom, so far as my information went, I still considered as innocent, had been sentenced to death. I was glad to hear that the decisions of the Angora Tribunal were not final, and had to be submitted to a Supreme Court who would, I doubted not, remove the sad effects which the sentences of the Provincial Court would produce. The clemency of the Sultan could not be exercised in a more deserving case than that of the two professors, and it was in the interests of Turkey that the grace of the Sovereign should be extended in the present instance.

His Highness appeared to appreciate the gravity of the question, and repeated his assurances to me that nothing would be done which would give just cause of complaint.

I may mention that during the interview the Grand Vizier referred to the interference of Mme. Thoumaian in what he termed the affairs of Turkey. I said that this lady had been engaged in a philanthropic work and in collecting money for a hospital; and that I was perfectly ready to prove to him that the funds she had procured were merely destined to that purpose. His Highness said he did not allude to that matter; but to her activity among persons in high position in England in order to incite them to interfere with the course of justice in Turkey. I replied that there was nothing extraordinary in the very natural anxiety of a wife in respect to her husband whose life was in danger. The subject then dropped.

After leaving the Grand Vizier I went to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and spoke to his Excellency in the same sense as I had done to the Head of the Government. I enlarged at greater length to his Excellency on the reports which I had received from Angora, and told him that these reports would probably be made public, and the world would know that two men against whom little evidence of a damaging character had been produced had been sentenced to suffer the extreme penalty of the law. His Excellency knew well the light in which this would be regarded in Europe, and I left it to him to appreciate the feelings which would be aroused.

His Excellency, who listened most attentively to all I said, assured me that he would faithfully convey to higher quarters the observations I had made. He authorized me to inform your Lordship that between the decisions of the Tribunal at Angora and their execution there was a very wide margin, and that more stages had to be passed through before the cases were finally determined. As Minister for Foreign Affairs it was his duty to lay before the Sovereign the nature of the impressions which were likely to be made by the results of the trials; and he could assure me that he would do his utmost to prevent any cause being given for any dissatisfaction on the part of Her Majesty's Government or of England, a country with whom Turkey desired to remain on the best relations.

The general impressions left on me by my interviews were that the Sublime Porte are quite alive to the unfortunate effects which the decisions of the Angora Tribunal will produce; and that they will use their best efforts towards obtaining a more merciful and lenient consideration of the cases of the condemned professors.

It would be premature to address any direct representations or observations to the Palace, as the decisions of the Angora Tribunal must first be reviewed by the "Cour de Cassation" confirm the sentences, they will have to be submitted for Imperial sanction; and then, but not till then, will be the moment for addressing higher quarters on the matter.

I should add that I explained to Saïd Pasha that he must not think there was any inclination on my part to screen those who were plotting or intriguing against the established Government. The representations which I was making on behalf of two of the condemned were based on the extreme severity of the sentences passed on them even if the charges of which they were accused had been proved; and on the fact, as reported to this Embassy, that the prisoners in general had not been allowed those means of defence which a fair trial should have secured to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 97.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 275. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 21, 1893.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report that I also had an interview with Artin Pasha, the Under-Secretary of State, who spoke far more openly on the subject of the Angora trials than was to be expected either from the Grand Vizier or Saïd Pasha.

Being an Armenian, Artin Pasha was naturally much outraged by the severity of the sentences, and expressed his feelings in very strong language. He told me that even some distinguished Ulema were much dissatisfied with the decisions, as being against the Cheri Law, which did not impose the extreme penalty of death for anything but overt acts of sedition. Artin Pasha further said that some of the *entourage* of the Sultan were urging His Majesty to press on the execution of the sentences, and not to allow himself to be swayed by the representations of foreign Powers. Artin Pasha, however, shared the general opinion that the Sultan would extend his clemency to the two professors, but that it would be prudent to allow him to have the appearance of doing so on his own initiative, and not under pressure. Even if he desired to do so, the Sultan could not interpose till the cases had passed through the "Cour de Cassation;" and premature action at the Palace would not only be useless, but might be harmful.

I spoke to Artin Pasha in the same sense as I had to the two Ministers, and he asked me whether he might repeat my observations to the Sultan, of whom he was to have an audience this evening. I begged him to do so, and not only to impress on His Majesty the injustice which was being inflicted, but also to point out the exceedingly bad policy of estranging civilized Europe, and above all of irritating public opinion in England. Artin Pasha asked me if Sir R. Temple, who had been so active in telegraphing, was a Conservative. I told him that Sir R. Temple was an ardent Conservative, and that he should tell the Sultan that on questions of injustice to his Christian subjects, His Majesty would find all political parties in England united.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 98.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June 27, 1893.*

HER Majesty's Government have been ready to await the result of the trial of the Armenians at Angora, hoping that it would be equitably and exhaustively conducted. From the Report, however, furnished by Vice-Consul Newton, it would appear that there was no evidence of the slightest moment against MM. Thoumaian and Kayayan. I would earnestly urge the Sultan, when he shall have satisfied himself of the injustice of the sentence, to exercise the prerogative of mercy without delay.

Her Majesty's Government cannot conceal their disappointment at the procedure adopted at the trial and its result, nor can they attempt to control the indignation which it has caused in this country.

No. 99.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June 28, 1893, 10·25 A.M.*

NOW that the festival of Courban Bairam is over, the sentences in the Armenian trials may at any moment be brought before the "Cour de Cassation." I therefore propose to act at once in accordance with the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram No. 55.

No. 100.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June 29, 1893.*

A REPORT has reached me that the Armenian prisoners at Angora are again in chains. Is this true?

No. 101.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 162.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 29, 1893.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 275, Confidential, of the 21st instant, reporting your conversation with Artin Pasha regarding the sentences passed on the Armenian Christians at Angora, and I approve the language which you held to him on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 102.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 162 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 29, 1893.*

THE Turkish Ambassador read me to-day a long telegram from his Government with reference to the recent sentences passed on the Armenian prisoners at Angora. I gathered that the Sublime Porte had presented a proposal to the Sultan that His Imperial Majesty should at once pardon the prisoners condemned to death with the exception of those who had committed breaches of the ordinary law. But the Sultan had hesitated as to his reply, because he thought it would encourage the rebellious in that province, and would also discourage his Mahommedan subjects, who would think that the law was only put into activity against themselves were he always to pardon Armenians, whatever they might do. It would, moreover, be a great encouragement to insurrection if it was supposed that whenever Armenians might conspire they would be shielded from the consequences by the action of the British Government. Rustem Pasha was, however, directed to see me at once, to ask for my views on the question, and transmit them by telegraph without delay, so that the Sultan might be in possession of them before he replied to his Ministers.

I begged his Excellency to remember that I had declined to intervene in any way on behalf of the prisoners until their trial was over, because I was willing to give the Turkish Government credit for granting them a fair trial, and I did not think that any country could well be asked to suspend proceedings in their Courts of Law at the request of another Power. But now our Vice-Consul at Angora had reported on the actual trial that had taken place, and had said it was in effect derisory, and that no evidence had been presented on which the two Armenian professors could be convicted, I confined my views to these two gentlemen, because theirs was the case with which I was best acquainted. If the Sultan asked my advice, though I had no reason to think

he sat any store by it, I should urge him to pardon the two professors without an instant of delay, because the promptitude of the act would go far to satisfy British public opinion.

Rustem Pasha asked me if I did not think that if the pain of death were commuted to exile that would be sufficient.

As to that, I said I could only give the opinion that a full and free pardon would be in my judgment the wisest course to pursue.

His Excellency promised that he would at once proceed to telegraph this opinion to the Sultan, and probably to-morrow or the next day he would get a reply.

I expressed my hope it would be to-morrow, as Parliament did not sit on Saturday, and an excellent effect would be produced if it could be announced in the House of Commons that the pardon had been granted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 103.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 281.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 25, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of a private letter and of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton, giving some further details in regard to the recent trials at Angora.

Avakian Effendi, the counsel of M. Thoumaian, is coming to see me to-morrow, and will, I trust, furnish full particulars in regard to the mode in which the trials were conducted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 103.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, June 20, 1893.*

IN continuing my series of despatches on the Armenian movement, I have the honour to make a few comments as it affects the well-being of the district in general.

The extreme and severe sentences passed upon the prisoners will naturally deter others from participating in a similar reckless undertaking. Taking a general view of the movement, it has on the face of it a thoughtless, childish stamp, and some of the poor fellows are rather to be pitied than condemned. They are not a class of men who would on their own responsibility enter into such a mad-brained project. I speak of those who are presumably guilty.

Most of the convicted are men engaged in a small way of business, and many have wives and families; the situation they now find themselves in means to the former financial loss, and to the latter much poverty and suffering.

It is regrettable that those who instituted this movement did not give a thought to the suffering and misery they are causing.

If those who form the Committees in Athens and elsewhere could see for themselves the result of their agitation, they would have paused before committing these poor misguided men to such a reckless and futile undertaking.

Another result may be attributed to this deplorable affair: it will tend to embitter racial and religious feeling between Turk and Christian, and, as we have already seen in the brutal murder at Yuzgat one form which the feeling has taken, repetitions of such outrages will naturally cause a feeling of disquietude probably attended with reprisals.

Fortunately the authorities are on the alert, and vigorous measures are now being taken to preserve life and property, and to suppress any reactionary feeling.

At present this district is quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 103.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, June 20, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my private letter of the 13th instant, which will have reached you by this time.

I am in receipt of your telegram of the 17th instant, asking for particulars of the closing days of the trial. I cannot understand my letter being so long on the way, my last letter was posted under registered cover on the 13th instant, and ought to have reached Constantinople on the 15th or 16th.

On the conclusion of the trial on the 12th I had not time before the post closed to give full particulars, consequently I wrote on the following day, the 13th. As my letter contains all desired information inquired for by your telegram, I have little to add on this head. I may, however, make a few further comments on the whole case.

As I have already mentioned, no witnesses were examined for the defence, although Thoumaian stated in court that he had witnesses to disprove some of the charges against him: the only reply he got was that the Court would see to the matter.

It evidently did not suit the Court to bring, or allow these witnesses to be brought forward on Thoumaian's behalf. It was a cut-and-dried affair that he was to be convicted.

The Court found Thoumaian, Kayayian, and fifteen others guilty of high treason, murder and robbery, and, under the laws of the country, the penalty was death. Twenty-one others were found guilty of high treason, but in a less degree than the former, consequently the penalty was imprisonment to terms varying from five to fifteen years. The Court based its decision on documentary evidence, and statements of some of the prisoners, and evidence of witnesses.

I have already given my opinion of the value of the statements of the prisoners, and the untenable character of the evidence of the witnesses.

The description given by some of the witnesses and prisoners of Artin Thoumaian and a certain Anthronike, who were supposed to be the ringleaders, and had undoubtedly participated in the affair, does not at all agree with the personal appearance of Garabet Thoumaian and Ohannes Kayayian. The Court passed over this important point in Garabet Thoumaian's favour; in fact, all rebutting evidence was suppressed that could tell against the prosecution.

The case now has to be fought out in Constantinople. The action of the Court in not allowing witnesses for the defence, or in not giving any facilities for them to be brought forward, ought to speak for itself, and if Thoumaian's witnesses which he mentions could disprove the charges against him, it should tell strongly in his favour.

I expressly asked Avakian Effendi (Thoumaian's counsel) to call upon you, in order to give you any details I may have omitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 104.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June 30, 1893, 10 A.M.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, a report that the Angora prisoners had been put into chains reached me on the 18th instant. I at once instructed Vice-Consul Newton to do all he could to secure the proper and humane treatment of the prisoners. Since then I have no further information, but I have sent a telegram on the subject to the Vice-Consul. My despatch No. 270 referred to the reported ill-treatment of the prisoners.

No. 105.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 285.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 27, 1893.*

THE Rev. Joseph Greene came to see me yesterday, in company with an Armenian gentleman who had been present at the trials at Angora.

Dr. Arakian, the counsel of Thoumaian, was prevented at the last moment from paying his promised visit, but Mr. Greene was the bearer of certain further details regarding the evidence brought forward against the two accused teachers, which may be of interest to your Lordship.

According to Mr. Greene, one of the points of evidence on which the counsel for the prosecution said he laid the greatest stress was that on one occasion Thoumaian had, in a sermon delivered in the Armenian church in Gemrek, held exciting language to the congregation. The evidence in support of this charge was the depositions of the Armenian priest and teacher at the above place. The counsel for the defence, on the other hand, read a letter written from Gemrek by the wife of a certain Hagop, himself one of the prisoners, to the effect that the priest and teacher had only signed the above depositions after they had received a severe beating from the men of Hosref Pasha, the Commandant of Gendarmerie. The counsel for the defence requested that the priest and teacher should be summoned before the Court, but the latter merely replied that they would look into the matter.

Another of the charges against both Thoumaian and Kayayan was that at the meetings of the Secret Revolutionary Society, held at Marsovan on the 24th-26th September, 1892, they had been present respectively in the capacity of President and Secretary, under the names of Haratoun Thoumaian and Andronike. The description of the personal appearances of the men who acted as President and Secretary did not in any way correspond with those of the accused, and, moreover, both the latter requested that the college records should be produced in Court, so as to prove that during the days in question they were occupied with their work in the college. The witnesses had said that during the session of the Secret Society the members of the Committee did not leave the house night or day, but remained, practically sitting *en permanence*. The Court replied that they would look into the matter. Three prisoners from Marsovan who had originally deposed that Thoumaian and Kayayan had acted as President and Secretary of the Secret Society announced in open Court at Angora that their evidence had been forced from them under threats and violence by Hosref Pasha.

The Armenian gentleman who was with Mr. Greene said that the pleadings of the lawyers for the defence were much curtailed by the President of the Court, and that no witnesses were allowed to be called on behalf of the accused.

I give the above summary of Mr. Greene's interview with me without any comments of my own, and I beg leave to inclose copy of a letter which M. Thoumaian has addressed to Mr. Greene, and which that gentleman left with me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Professors Thoumaian and Kayayan to Rev. Messrs. Greene and Barnum.

(Translation.)

Dear Sirs, *Angora Prison, June 19, 1893.*

AS you are already acquainted with our trial, it is not our purpose to go into the details of the case; we only wish to explain to you the colour the case has taken during the past two weeks.

Since our arrival in Angora, his Excellency Abedin Pasha, the Governor-General, has called me to his presence many times, has confessed that he was convinced of my innocence, and has encouraged me to hope for release. He has said as much both in the presence of the British Consul of Erzeroum and of my brother-in-law, Dr. Hoffmann, and he had me taken from prison and put in a sufficiently comfortable room. We do not know what happened that in the last week of the trial the face of affairs changed, and, to the astonishment of ourselves and all the attendants at the

trial on Monday, seventeen of the prisoners were condemned to death, and others to imprisonment, some for seven, some for ten, and some for fifteen years. We, too, the Undersigned, are among those condemned to death, and so are classed with five murderers. This sad news, I know, Dr. Dodd, who was present on the last day of the trial, has already communicated to you. Of a truth, we greatly grieve that the trial had so unfortunate and desperate an issue. But we are not hopeless, but are confident that God is ever with His servants, and will not forsake them though He keep silence for awhile. Would God that our misfortunes might be the seeds of blessings to others.

All our friends ought to know that of the things spoken against us not one is a fact. In spite of all the efforts of the Government, not one positive proof was found of our guilt or complicity. The Government itself was well aware of this, and towards the close of the trial brought forward new evidence, but it was openly shown that this new evidence was groundless and fabricated.

The trial will now be taken to the Court of Cassation at Constantinople. We, therefore, M. Kayayan and myself, send our advocate, M. Kevork Avakian, to Constantinople, to do what he can to defend us there. While M. Avakian is officially the advocate of us two, he will also labour on behalf of the entire forty-one condemned persons. He is an able and trustworthy man, and has pursued his profession for years in Constantinople; of course, he needs, however, the assistance and counsel of friends. We commend him to you, and beg you to render him all the assistance in your power.

Our hope is rather in the clemency of His Imperial Majesty than in vindication by the Court of Cassation. For, in view of the fact that they have condemned us here, in spite of evidence which was abundantly sufficient to establish our innocence, we doubt not that the Court of Cassation will not fail to confirm the verdict. It is, therefore, more hopeful to labour for pardon from His Imperial Majesty. Dr. Hoffmann has already presented our case at the English and German Embassies, and the time has now come for a final effort on our behalf. We hope, therefore, that, either on the occasion of Courban Bairam or after the Bairam, earnest efforts will be made to secure us the Imperial clemency. M. Avakian is minutely acquainted with all the facts pertaining to the accused, and can inform you of many things which we cannot mention with pen and paper.

Dr. Hoffmann told us of Pastor Suble's interest in our case, and I send him a special, and beseech his kind offices. I am confident, too, that as soon as the news of our condemnation reaches Europe, Dr. Hoffmann and my wife will come to Constantinople to labour in our behalf. M. Avakian will also lay the case of the Armenian prisoners before the Armenian Patriarch, and will implore his help.

It is now five months since we were unjustly imprisoned. Our sole offence is that we are teachers. We beg you, for the love of God and of justice, to spare no pains to secure our release, and may God reward you. Forget us not in your prayers.

(Signed) G. THOUMAIAN.
H. KAYAYAN.

No. 106.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 108.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 2, 1893, 11 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 105, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora informs me that MM. Thoumaian and Kayayan were put in irons after the trial, but only for three days. Thoumaian is lodged in a separate room, with permission to walk about the garden, and he is able to procure what food he wishes from outside.

Kayayan occupies a large, well-ventilated room in company with other prisoners, and is able to walk about in a courtyard.

Most of the prisoners are in chains, but apart from this they appear to be humanely treated.

No. 107.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 3, 1893.*

HER Majesty's Government cannot wait for result of proceedings of Court of Cassation. The Sultan is evidently determined to add to the cruel farce already perpetrated at Angora another mock condemnation. Every additional day, however, that passes over the heads of these innocent prisoners is a new injustice.

No. 108.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 166.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 3, 1893.*

THE Turkish Ambassador came to see me again to-day. I said I hoped that he had brought with him the news of the pardon of the two Armenian professors, but his Excellency had nothing to tell me except that the Sultan had promised to pardon them should the decision of the Court of Cassation be unfavourable.

On receiving this unsatisfactory communication I expressed great impatience. The release of the professors, I said, was virtually promised last week. I might have awaited the result of the proceedings before the Court of Cassation if the first trial had been one of a real and substantial character. But that trial had been a mere mockery, and every day that passed over these innocent men in prison only added to the weight of the injustice.

Rustem Pasha left me stating that he would immediately telegraph further on the subject to Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 109.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, July 4, 1893, 2 P.M.*

I WAS received by appointment this morning by the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs. They told me that the sentences had been confirmed by the Court of Cassation, but that Thoumaian and Kayayan had been pardoned by the Sultan. Orders to liberate the two prisoners at once will be sent to-day; they will have to leave the country and go where they choose.

I hope sincerely that this result will be satisfactory to your Lordship, and I would earnestly urge that it is chiefly in the men's own interest that they should leave the country. Moreover, the Sultan could not allow them to remain in Turkey without serious injury to his own position.

There is this difficulty in regard to the other prisoners. Some are convicted of murder, others on their own confession of participation in secret movements, while others may be innocent, but sufficient information to express an opinion has not reached me. That no death penalty will be carried out may safely be taken for granted, and it is my own strong impression that, besides the two already mentioned others will be pardoned.

No. 110.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 164.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 4, 1893.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 274 of the 21st ultimo, reporting your interview with the Grand Vizier on the subject of the sentences passed by the Court

at Angora upon the Armenian professors MM. Thoumaian and Kayayan, and I approve the language which you held to his Highness on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 111.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 5, 1893.*

WHAT truth is there in the allegation that twenty cases of torture, with names of persons and places, and with dates, have been brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy by Marsovan Armenians?

No. 112.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, July 5, 1893, 7·10 P.M.*

I SENT home by last messenger the documents referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 61. The scene of the alleged tortures seems to have been Kaisarieh. Before going into them, I thought it better to await the settlement of the question of the pardon of the prisoners. I hope to get further information from a gentleman I shall see to-morrow.

I trust your Lordship will not think I have overlooked this question, but I was anxious to see the other settled before going into it.

No. 113.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 173 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 5, 1893.*

THE Turkish Ambassador announced to me to-day that Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan had been, or would immediately be, released and sent out of the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish Government wished, however, that it should be known that they had in their opinion absolute proof of the guilt of the accused persons, and that they could not allow this to form any precedent for future action by Her Majesty's Government, as they would not admit our right to intervene in the internal affairs of Turkey.

I replied that without going further into the question, it was sufficient to say that if there were evidence of the kind alleged against the accused, it had not been produced at the trial.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 114.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, July 6, 1893, 10·30 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 112:

I omitted to mention that the document in question has no reference to the Marsovan prisoners; but the cases of torture therein mentioned are alleged to have been practised on those at Kaisarieh, who, it appears, are inhabitants of villages in that district.

The acts took place in January.

Some of these men are among those who were condemned at Angora.

No. 115.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, July 6, 1893, 12·45 P.M.*

PROFESSORS Thoumaian and Kayayan will arrive here to-morrow, having left Angora this morning. They will leave by the French steamer on the 8th, and I hope to be able to arrange for them to be lodged till then with the American missionaries.

No. 116.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, July 6, 1893, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram of to-day, I have the honour to report that the arrangements for the departure of the two Professors are as follows:—As a measure of precaution, they will pass to-morrow night in a room at the Ministry of Police, the authorities who are responsible for their safe departure being afraid to leave them in a private house, as a trick might be played by some fanatic. They will be allowed to see their friends and relatives, and will leave by the French boat on the 8th instant. The Sultan will give each £ T. 15, and will also pay their travelling expenses. With regard to the other prisoners, Said Pasha informs me privately that the outlook is satisfactory. His Excellency begs that we should not use any pressure just at present.

No. 117.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 7.)

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June 10, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith inclosed duplicate copies of two despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Devey, treating of Armenian affairs at Van; the murder of Armenians at Kurubash may have been prompted by motives of personal revenge, and thus be devoid of political significance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, May 30, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a terrible crime was committed ten days ago on the hill pastures overhanging Kurubash village near this town.

A party of Armenian peasants had gone out to gather herbs for domestic purposes, and four men were barbarously done to death by the knife; their limbs were also much hacked in one or two cases and an ear or two cut off. One man who was at a distance from the rest returned to the village unaware of what had passed. Young girls were of the party, and according to current rumours three were violated and roughly used; their hair or the lower tresses, with long ribbons attached to them, were cut off, and one who attempted to help her father struggling with the assassins was wounded slightly. The army doctor, who, I am given to understand, was charged with a medical inspection of the injured, states, however, that the girls "were not seriously maltreated in any way."

A Kurdish shepherd-watchman "Nuhetdar," of Varak Monastery (Yedi-Kilisseh), has been identified unmistakably by one of the girls in question as one of the assassins. And it would seem that traces of blood were followed to near this monastery where a party of fifteen or sixteen individuals had been observed partaking of food earlier in the morning; it is suspected that this party or some among them may have committed

the crime and returned to the neighbourhood of the monastery later. Several of them, I believe, were at once arrested.

The affair has not yet been unravelled, nor will it be easily cleared up. Stories circulated here in explanation of the crime are that the monastery "Nuhetdar" bore a grudge against the villagers for having caused him to be deprived of certain perquisites in grass, and that another Kurd was also in rancour with the peasants in question for having denounced him as the thief of a few of their sheep. The authorities incline to suspect that the small band of Armenian malcontents or outlaws, known to exist here, are concerned, at all events indirectly; as in the affair reported in my despatch of the 20th July, 1891, Varak monastery appears to have been a point of repair for assassins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, May 30, 1893.*

YESTERDAY morning an Armenian informer, known as "Kilijji Hagob" (Hagob the cutler), was shot dead while walking to the city in company with a young carpenter, named Yeghinzar.

The latter, believing himself to be unobserved, discharged a pistol into Hagob's ear, so close as to partly burn his fez and to blacken the side of his face; after which he turned into a side street and got away before an alarm was raised.

The cutler was of late in very ill-odour among his fellows; possibly his denunciations to the police of Armenians for seditious malpractices or offences may on occasions not have been entirely groundless, but it is certain that he was also in the habit of intimidating innocent parties with threats of delation, and perhaps of extorting petty sums of blackmail.

It is stated that the assassin had intrusted a military rifle to the cutler several months ago for repairs or alteration, which Hagob was refusing to return to him, and had threatened an information. It is suggested, further, though probably quite untrue, that the rifle in question was one of those taken from the wounded zaptiehs two years ago, when the Armenian prisoner Ghazar was rescued on the mountain pass Norkugh Gedik.

Police visits and searchings of Armenian houses have been more frequent than ever during the last few months; and, so far as I can judge, they seldom produce any proportionate fruit. It is only natural that Armenians should be distinctly elated over the assassination of this cutler, and no doubt they will do anything rather than facilitate the capture of the murderer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 280.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 24, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves, dated from Kharput, on the subject of Armenian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Kharput, June 4, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived in this town yesterday, the 3rd instant, having passed through Divriq and Arabkir on my way from Sivas. Both

these places had been mentioned in connection with recent Armenian troubles, and I am glad to be able to report that such mention was entirely erroneous, and that, so far as I can ascertain, the seditious movement of the past winter in Central Anatolia does not appear to have extended east of the city of Sivas. Divriq, a town of about 15,000 inhabitants, of whom about 4,000 are Armenians, has enjoyed absolute quiet for years past, under the rule of an excellent Kaïmakam, Rifaat Effendi, who possesses the confidence and respect of all classes. There is only one Armenian political prisoner confined there, awaiting trial on a charge of possessing seditious documents.

At Arabkir, on the other hand, there have been serious troubles among the numerous Armenian population during the last two years. In 1891, as reported by Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian at the time, a strong seditious organization was discovered to exist there, whose objects and means of action, including the murder of police officers and informers and the employment of explosive bombs, bore a strong resemblance to those of the Marsovan Committee, which is still giving so much trouble. The ramifications of this Society extended to Kharput, Egin, Ilehmé, and Palou, and at one moment there was serious danger of an outbreak, which would have been attended by most disastrous consequences; but the organization was broken up, or at least paralyzed, by the arrest of some of the ringleaders and the removal of the Armenian Bishop of Arabkir, who had taken a leading part in exciting the Armenians against the Government.

As far as Kharput and its neighbourhood are concerned, there has been no change in the condition of affairs reported by Mr. Boyajian last summer and autumn. The Armenians do not suffer from any special oppression or grievances, but isolated cases continue to occur of vexatious arrest and imprisonment of Armenians upon frivolous charges of a political nature, for which some of the lower Judicial and Executive authorities are chiefly to blame. Their action would seem to be generally prompted by the desire to extort blackmail or hush money, or to gain distinction by their misplaced zeal, and serves to keep alive a feeling of insecurity and irritation among the Armenians which is greatly to be deplored.

The Vali, Emin Pasha, who has only been at Kharput for a few months, appears to be kindly and well-intentioned, but any efforts of his to restore confidence and check abuses will probably be paralyzed by the lamentable condition of the Judicial Department, which, in this as well as in the other provinces I have traversed, now constitutes the greatest obstacle to the administration of justice, which it was created to secure.

I intend to leave Kharput for Erzeroum viâ Moush upon the 9th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 119.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 286. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 28, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 262 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that, from the inquiries I have been able to make in regard to the alleged intention of the Ottoman Government to establish a son of Sheikh Obeydullah in Eastern Kurdistan, it would appear that the rumour which reached Colonel Chermside is without serious foundation. My informant observes, with some reason, that it is not likely that the Sublime Porte would care to run the risk of a recurrence of the difficulties to which the actions of the Sheikh gave rise, and would not desire, unnecessarily, to commit an unfriendly act towards Persia.

Although I am inclined to believe that there is no intention of reinstating the son of the late Kurdish Chief, I will have the question watched.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 120.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 290.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 30, 1893.*

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 65 in the evening of the 27th instant, and as on the following day all the Ministers were occupied at the weekly Cabinet Council, I sent a private letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs conveying the sense of your Lordship's telegram, and informing his Excellency that I would call upon him the next day to speak to him on the subject.

I saw Said Pasha yesterday afternoon, and repeated the substance of the communication which your Lordship had transmitted, pointing out to him seriously and emphatically the grave turn which affairs were taking. His Excellency informed me that the papers relating to the trial at Angora had just arrived in Constantinople, and had been at once submitted to the "Cour de Cassation;" but as they were very voluminous, some 150 in number, a few days would elapse before they could be thoroughly examined. I gave his Excellency one or two instances of the manner in which, according to our information, the Court had dealt with the cases, and I could assure him that the more the details of the trial became known, the greater would be the indignation in my country. His Excellency repeated his former assurances that if any irregularities had been committed during the trial at Angora, the "Cour de Cassation" would remedy them, and that until that Court had examined the *procès-verbaux* nothing could be done. He was sure that I would agree with him that it was necessary to respect the independence of the Courts of Justice. His Excellency said that he feared a spirit of what he called fanaticism was being shown in England, and that the matter was being regarded as an act of religious persecution on the part of the Ottoman Government. I replied that there was no doubt fanaticism in England for justice and fair dealing, and that I personally associated myself with that fanaticism. Public opinion was becoming much agitated over the question, and I earnestly advised the Ottoman Government to take speedy measures to allay the feeling which had been aroused in my country. His Excellency reiterated that the decisions of the "Cour de Cassation" must be awaited.

I then went to the Grand Vizier, and spoke much in the same sense to his Highness, who repeated the assurances of the Foreign Minister as to the "Cour de Cassation" remedying any injustice or irregularity which might have been committed by the Angora Tribunal. I said I trusted this would be so; but that I must frankly confess to his Highness that our confidence in Turkish Tribunals had been shaken. This remark nettled his Highness, and a somewhat warm discussion ensued. His Highness remarked that it was most unfortunate that Her Majesty's Government should allow themselves to be influenced by a few missionaries and agitators. I replied that it was absurd to imagine that a Government would be influenced in the manner he indicated, and that if he had followed the statements made by my Government in Parliament, he would have seen that they had continually declared that they must await the Report of the Vice-Consul at Angora before forming an opinion. It was only after they had received that Report that they had sent me the message which I had delivered to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Highness asked on what that Report was based. Did our Vice-Consul understand Turkish well enough to follow the proceedings of a Tribunal? I said that I had no doubt that he did; but it was not necessary to follow every phase of the trial. The mere fact that no witnesses were allowed to be called for the defence was sufficient to damn the trial *ab initio*.

I gave his Highness several instances of the mode in which the trial had been conducted, and informed him that one who had been present at the trial had told me that not even the lawyers were enabled to develop their pleadings, while some of the prisoners were stopped when speaking in their own defence. His Highness took note of one or two of my statements, and said he would mention them to the Minister of Justice. I told his Highness that it would be better for us to leave the details of the trial for the moment, and treat of the general question, and to consider the very grave situation which was being produced. I desired to impress on him that the matter was daily growing in importance, and that it was very necessary that immediate steps should be taken to allay the indignation felt at home. His Highness asked why the British public intervened in the internal affairs of Turkey. I expressed my surprise at such a question, and asked if his Highness was not aware of the Treaty engagements of his country towards the Christian inhabitants. His Highness then asked what the Ottoman Government could be expected to do till the "Cour de Cassation" had pro-

nounced. If the Court quashed the sentence, well and good; but if it confirmed them, what then? I replied that there would then be an opportunity for His Majesty to exercise his clemency and pardon the innocent. His Highness said it would be perhaps not difficult to commute the death penalty; but he appeared to have some doubts as to a free pardon. I told him a commutation would not be considered as at all satisfactory, and would not be acceptable to my Government or my country.

His Highness begged me to consider the position of the Ottoman Government a little in this case, and not to regard the matter from one point of view alone. There were Armenian Societies in London, Paris, and elsewhere, whose chief objects were to propagate sedition among the Armenian population in Turkey. There were Secret Societies all over the country with revolutionary aims. If the Government laid their hands on any members of these Societies and sentenced them to penalties, their friends in England and elsewhere raised the cry of Turkish persecution, and moved Governments and Parliaments to intervene in their behalf. Such action encouraged evil-doers, who felt that they could with impunity commit any acts and be protected from the consequences. What effect would be produced on the public in Turkey if, supposing the "Cour de Cassation" confirmed the sentences of the Angora Tribunal, the condemned were allowed to get off scot-free? I replied that his Highness must clearly understand the position we took up. I did not deny that there might be sedition among certain sections of the Armenian population, and I would not enter at this moment into the causes of such sedition or into the means which might be adopted by the Government to afford no reason for it. We did not desire to protect guilty persons —far from it—but what we contended, and we had grounds for our contention, was that innocent people, or at any rate people who had not been proved guilty, were being punished with the utmost severity. Had the trial at Angora been conducted on fair and equitable principles, and had it been clearly shown that only those who were undoubtedly proved guilty had been convicted, not a voice would have been raised against the decision. But in the present case the trial was not fair, the charges were not proven, and I could not conceal from his Highness that it would seem, from our information, as if it had been decided from the beginning that certain people were to be convicted, evidence or no evidence. His Highness said that it was one of his most cherished principles that only the guilty should suffer, and that the strictest orders had been given that the trial should be conducted fairly and impartially, and that to show the desire of the Government to conceal nothing, the trial had been a public one. I replied that we had had former instances of public trials in Turkey, I did not specifically mention that of Moussa Bey, and that I feared publicity was not necessarily a guarantee of impartiality.

After again impressing on his Highness the gravity of the case, I took my leave with the hope that he would shortly be able to announce to me a satisfactory solution of a question which might cast a shadow over our friendly relations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 121.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 291.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 30, 1893.*

I RECEIVED privately, through Mr. Vice-Consul Newton, a document in Turkish from one of the lawyers defending the Armenian prisoners, giving details of the tortures which are alleged to have been committed on the prisoners in Kaisarieh prison.

Rumours of ill-treatment had reached the Embassy some weeks ago.

I have the honour to transmit translation of the document in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 121.

List showing the Names, &c., of some of the Armenian Prisoners who were subjected to Ill-usage and Torture by the Mussulman Prisoners and Officials, by order of the Mutessarif of Kaisarieh, in the Prison of that Town, from January 2, 1893, up to the present time.

(Translation.)

1. SERKES TEKEYIAN, of the village of Tellas. They made this man, who is 40 years of age, and father of a family, lie in the mud. They beat him severely, repeatedly poured jugs-full of water over his head, and cut off half his moustaches. They tied him up in the position known as "domouz topou," and beat him till they broke their sticks over him. They strung him up by the legs, and left him hanging with his head down. They fastened stones in the hollows of his knees, and made him kneel on the ground. They thrust the spout of an earthern water-pot into his anus and a red hot iron into his penis. They likewise branded his body with red hot iron. These tortures and sufferings continued for eight days.

2. Karo Ghertmanian, of Tellas. They stripped this young man, who is a youth of 20, and beat him cruelly. They hung him up by the heels for four or five hours. In the depth of winter they poured cold water on the ground and made him kneel in it. They tied a rope round his neck and dragged him along the ground till he was nearly throttled. They left him for days in a dark charcoal-store with nothing to eat. This man's sufferings were prolonged for eleven days.

3. Rupen Kehiayian, of Tellas. A married man of 30. Him also they beat cruelly. In the depth of winter they stripped him naked and poured icy cold water over him. They forced him too to kneel with stones fastened in the hollows of his knees, tied him up in the same way as Serkes Tekeyian, thrust him naked in the mud, and thrashed him severely. This man's sufferings lasted six days.

4. Ghazar Vezirian, of Tellas; 42 years old, and father of a family. This man also was stripped and cruelly beaten; made to kneel in the mud and had cold water poured over him, but only on one day.

5. Arsen Effendi Kalfayian, of Tellas. A married man of 33, and a lawyer by profession. This person was stripped and placed, in the depth of winter, without food or water, in a room called the "iron-house," after which he was confined in the same room for eleven days more. His confinement lasted for twelve days.

6. Abraham Hatchadourian, of Tellas. A married man of 28. This man was stripped and beaten, and had jugs-full of water poured over him like the others. He also was made to kneel in the mud with stones in the hollows of his knees, and was branded with red hot iron tongs. This lasted for three days.

7. Hadji Madjarian, of Kaisarieh. This young man was also stripped and had icy water poured over him, and was severely beaten. He was made to kneel in the mud, and had red hot tongs applied to his body. This went on for three days.

8. Agob Delikian, of Kaisarieh. A married man of 30. This person also was stripped like the rest and had icy water poured over his head, and was cruelly beaten. Making him kneel with his head on the ground they ill-treated him for hours together, and branded him on the feet and shoulders with heated tongs. They likewise thrust a heated iron into his penis. This went on for four days.

9. Agob Tchukourlian, of Kaisarieh. A man of 45, and father of a family. This man was also stripped and badly beaten, and jugs-full of water were repeatedly poured over his head. They left him hanging head downwards, made him kneel with stones in the hollows of his knees, and broke their sticks to pieces over him, and spat into his mouth. His tortures lasted for twelve days.

10. Ghazar Madjarian, of Kaisarieh, an old man of 65, was confined in a bitterly cold room without clothes, food, or water. The poor old man, being unable to bear it, fell seriously ill, so that they sent him home for fear lest he should die. His sufferings lasted for two days.

11. Parsegh Deukmedjian, of Kaisarieh, a young man of 27, was also stripped, made to kneel with his head on the ground, and repeatedly beaten with such violence that his breast-bone was injured, and he bled at the mouth for a month afterwards. Though he was only tortured for two days, it was a month before he could stop the bleeding from his mouth.

12. Mardiros Djuvanian, of the village of Efkere, a school-boy of 19, was first of all violently beaten by the Mutessarif of Kaisarieh at his own office, and subsequently stripped and still more cruelly beaten at the prison. Making him kneel in the mud, they repeatedly beat him with such violence that the unfortunate child lost the use of

his limbs, and, for fear lest he should die in the prison, they sent him home in that condition. His ill-treatment lasted over two days.

13. Lerop Papazian, of the village of Belakis, a man of 35, and father of a family, was similarly stripped and made to kneel in the mud, and so severely beaten that he was unable to support it, but fell seriously ill, and so was sent home, after two days' ill-usage, for fear he should die in the prison.

14. Agob Papazian, of the same village, aged 34, and father of a family, was also stripped, and badly beaten and branded on the shoulders with heated tongs. He was ill-treated for two days.

15. Mamas Kevorkian, of the same village, a youth of 19, was stripped like the others, had icy water poured over him, and was severely beaten and made to kneel in the mud. His ill-treatment lasted for ten days.

16. Surpik Khatoun, of the town of Everek or Dullu, a poor woman of 36, was also badly beaten and mishandled; so much so, that this unfortunate woman was dishonoured by seven zaptiehs, the details of which are passed over in silence from regard for decency.

17. The miller, Aristakes Keshishian, of the same town, a man of 45, and father of a family, was severely beaten in the prison by order of the Kaimakam. Copper-ore was heated in the fire and placed upon his head, and similarly his chest was branded with irons heated in the fire. Iron skewers were thrust under his nails till the blood spurted out. In the depth of winter they made him lie in the snow with no other clothes than shirt and drawers. They put a chain round his neck, and hung him up so that he could neither sit nor lie down, and left him in that position for two days and nights without food, water, or sleep. All the prisoners, great and small, acting on the permission given them, performed the act of sodomy on him. When this poor fellow asked for water, one of the zaptiehs flung an empty water-jug at him and cut open his head, so that he fainted completely, and a wound was opened on his forehead of such a depth that its mark still remains, and the blood-stains are still visible in the room in which he was placed. This unfortunate man's tortures continued for twelve days.

18. Der Agob Effendi, priest of the village of Tchomakli, was summoned at 8 o'clock at night on the pretence of submitting him to an interrogatory, and was severely beaten. Both his person and his sacred office and his religion were treated with contumely. While he was being beaten they made all sorts of noises with boards and tins and shouts of laughter, in order that his cries might not be heard outside.

19. Artin Denkmedjian, of Kaisarieh, a young man of 25, was left for three days and nights without food or water, or sleep or clothing, in the depth of winter, confined to a room in which petroleum had been spilt on purpose the day before. Not content with that they threw him into prison, and finally brought him to Angora and put him in chains, in consequence of which treatment he died of a heart disease from which he was suffering.

Catalogue of Tortures.

1. Beating.
2. Severe beating.
3. Beating on the naked body.
4. Kneeling naked in the mud.
5. Sitting in icy water.
6. Having icy water poured over the bare body.
7. Being put under a continuous flow, as above.
8. Hanging up by the heels or otherwise.
9. Dragging along by a rope round the neck.
10. Being made to kneel with stones fastened in the hollow of the knees.
11. Being tied up in the position called "domouz topou."
12. Being made to sleep in a cold room or wet place.
13. Being buried naked in snow.
14. Pulling out the moustaches.
15. Insertion of pitcher-spout in anus.
16. Insertion of hot skewer in penis.
17. Branding with hot iron on the shoulder, head, breast, hands, or feet.
18. Placing hot copper-ore on head.
19. Breaking stone pitcher on head.

20. Imprisonment in coal-shed and "iron-house."
21. Leaving without food and water.
22. Deprivation of sleep.
23. Spitting in the mouth.
24. Insulting religion and holy office.
25. Rape.
26. Sodomy.

No. 122.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 294. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 30, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 290 of this day's date, I have the honour to report that, on taking my leave of Said Pasha, I said I wished to urge his Excellency, as an old acquaintance, to do what lay in his power to settle this exceedingly troublesome question in regard to the Armenian trials without delay. Every day increased the agitation in England, and if they were going to pardon the men, why not do so at once, even before the "Cour de Cassation" had pronounced. His Excellency said no one wished more than himself to terminate the business, but that he was of little weight in questions of this nature. He would tell me privately that the Sultan did intend to pardon them, but I was not to betray him, as possibly the situation might change, and then we should hold him responsible. Moreover, he begged me to do what I could to calm the agitation, these meetings and petitions. "Do not," he said, "press us too hard, but let us have the appearance of doing the thing in our own way."

After what the Grand Vizier hinted I have my doubts as to the certainty of a free pardon; and I feel fairly confident that any relaxation in the pressure may diminish the chances of our obtaining it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 300.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1893.*

IN response to an invitation which I had received late on the previous evening, I went to the Porte yesterday afternoon to see the Foreign Minister. His Excellency, who had been occupied at the Palace, informed me, after some preliminary conversation, that he desired to speak to me in regard to the Armenian prisoners. He was instructed to tell me that His Imperial Majesty had given orders that the proceedings at the "Cour de Cassation" should be hastened on with all possible dispatch, and that even certain formalities should be dispensed with. He hoped that on Monday or Tuesday (the 3rd or 4th instant) at the latest the Court of Cassation would have terminated its examination; and that if the sentences were confirmed His Imperial Majesty was prepared to exercise his high prerogative of mercy and commute the death penalty against Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan to simple banishment from the Ottoman Dominions. I inquired whether this meant that these two accused would be allowed to go where they will. His Excellency replied, "Where they will," and added, "I am telegraphing to Rustem Pasha to inform him of this." I told his Excellency that I was pleased to hear the news that the two men in whose behalf so much public interest had been aroused would be liberated. I added that I trusted that the same clemency would be extended to others who were equally innocent. I was unable to specify any names in this category as I have no information as to the nature of the charges and the weight of evidence against the other prisoners. Some of the prisoners have admitted their participation in the secret movement; others are condemned for murder; and it will require further inquiry to enable any opinion to be given as to who are innocent and who are not. Moreover, I think it would be wiser to wait till it is seen to what extent the Imperial clemency will be exercised in the other cases apart from Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan.

Simple banishment from the Ottoman Empire is the best solution. Even if it had

been possible to have obtained an absolutely free pardon, and this would have been exceedingly difficult in all the circumstances of the case, I do not think that the life of a suspect in Turkey would be a very comfortable one either in relation to the authorities or to the more ardent of his compatriots. I trust your Lordship will be satisfied with the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 302.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 3, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Angora, giving a recapitulation of the charges and evidence against Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayaian, and transmitting copies of two documents containing defence of Thoumaian and Kayaian respectively.

I am forwarding these inclosures to your Lordship in original, as pressure of work prevents my sending copies of them by this messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, June 27, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my private letters of the 20th, 22nd, and 23rd respectively.

In my letter of the 20th I have given the grounds on which the Court based its decision in Thoumayian's case, if really any grounds could be found for so severe a sentence, or even any sentence at all. In the face of the meagre and doubtful evidence given in Court, I am really at a loss to find any grounds for a conviction.

I have already recapitulated the charges against Thoumayian and Kayaian; I will, however, place them before you again for easier reference.

I will take four indictments as being the principal charges brought against him, and the evidence brought forward by the Court in support of these charges:—

1. His signature to a revolutionary document under the assumed name of "Baron Minni."

2. His presence as President of a revolutionary movement at a meeting held at Marsovan for the purpose of inviting the people to revolution and active resistance to the Government.

3. His journey to Cesarea, Yuzgat, and through the Sivas Vilayet with the same object.

4. His active connection with the movement, and directing, and being cognizant of the doings of those who had undoubtedly taken a part on their own admission in this revolutionary movement.

The evidence brought before the Court in support of these charges is as follows:—

1. One of the prisoners stated that a document was brought to him to sign; this document bore the signatures of "Baron Ninni" and "Baron Varham." He asked the bearers of the letter whose signatures these were; he was told they were Thoumaian's and Kayaian's. The prisoner further said that he did not know, nor had he ever seen Thoumaian or Kayaian. The persons who brought the letter to the prisoner, although known, have not been brought forward.

A further document was produced by the prosecution signed by some of the prisoners, in which it states that Thoumaian and Kayaian were President and Secretary respectively of the revolutionary movement. The signators of this document stated in Court that the authorities in the Sivas Vilayet forced them to sign this paper under threats that if they did not sign they would be imprisoned, if they did sign they would be allowed to go free. The signators also stated that they did not know Thoumaian

and Kayaian, nor had they seen any correspondence emanating from them respecting this movement.

So much for the documentary evidence.

2. No witnesses were brought forward to prove his presence at this meeting, and Thoumaian stated he could prove his whereabouts on the date the meeting was held. This, of course, was passed over by the Court.

3. No witnesses were brought forward by the prosecution that could connect him in any way with revolution during his journey. Thoumaian said he could prove by independent witnesses that his object was connected with his mission and mercantile matter.

4. None of the witnesses or prisoners have in their evidence proved his slightest connection with the movement. They admitted that a "Thoumaian" was connected with the movement, and on being asked by the President if they could recognize the person among the prisoners before Court, they all stated that Garabet Thoumaian was not the man they know had taken an active part in the affair.

No witnesses were brought forward for the defence. Although Thoumaian asked to be allowed to bring witnesses on his behalf, they were not examined.

Such is the case against Thoumaian and Kayaian, and I leave you to judge on what grounds the Court could with justice pronounce the extreme sentence of death.

I beg to inclose two documents containing Thoumaian's and Kayaian's defences. In their statements they traverse the same ground I have already gone over in my despatches, and bring forward no new features bearing on the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

Defence of M. Thoumaïan.

M. le Président,

J'AI vécu trente ans en Turquie, et à peu près dix années dans les écoles et Universités en Europe. Partout en Asie comme en Europe il y a des centaines de personnes qui sont prêts à donner de bon témoignage sur moi et sur mon caractère. Dans toute ma vie je n'ai jamais comparu devant le Gouvernement ni comme accusé ni comme accusateur. C'est la première fois que je me présente devant des Juges comme accusé politique, et cela lorsque j'ai été tout tranquillement occupé à remplir mes devoirs de professeur dans un collège, où il y a quatre mois et demi depuis que je me trouve dans des coins humides des prisons, tourmenté par des tortures de bois et de fer à la main, des anneaux dans mon cou, et des chaînes à mes pieds.

On a dit beaucoup de choses contre nous, mais aucune preuve positive n'a été trouvé prouvant notre culpabilité. On n'a trouvé aucune lettre ou papier quelconque de notre écriture ou de notre signature. On a examiné soigneusement nos maisons, rien n'a été trouvé; nous n'avons ni fusils, ni poudre, ni de pareil; et dans nos "Istintaks" aucune contradiction n'a été constatée. Il n'y a pas eu non plus aucun témoignage acceptable contre nous. Toute accusation donc contre nous consiste en de purs soupçons, et peut être groupé en trois points suivants:—

Premièrement, comme quoi les faux noms Mené et Vahram, employés dans la Société pour le Président et le Secrétaire, sont nos noms.

En second lieu, que notre tournée d'il y a deux ans en Césarée et Sivas était d'un but politique nuisible.

Troisièmement, que l'argent collecté par ma femme en Angleterre n'est par pour l'hôpital, mais pour un but politique.

I.

Commençons par le premier point. Il y a deux lettres avec la signature de Mené et Vahram, et cinq prisonniers Césaréens ont dit que ces lettres viennent de MM. Thoumaïan et Kayaïan, de Marsovan.

1. Tous ces cinq personnes un à un ont rendu témoignage hautement et unanimement devant nous-mêmes il y a quelques jours, qu'ils ne connaissent pas Thoumaïan et Kayaïan, qu'ils ne savent pas de qui ses deux lettres sont arrivées, et que c'était le Gouverneur de Césarée qui les a obligé par force de dire ainsi. Et qu'Andon Reshdouni lui-même, qui n'a jusqu'ici caché rien de ce qui concernait leur Société, à la tête de laquelle se trouve lui-même, dit catégoriquement que c'était le Gouverneur de

Césarée qui a tout fabriqué, et que quant à lui il n'a jamais été à Marsovan, ni entendu les noms de Thoumaïan et Kayaïan.

2. Et comment ont-ils su ces cinq personnes que c'est bien nous qui sommes Mené et Vahram? Nous devons naturellement les avoir informés que depuis lors nous signerons Mené et Vahram. Qu'ils nous montrent donc une pareille lettre, ou une personne quelconque qui nous aura servi d'intermédiaire pour leur faire parvenir cette nouvelle. Inutile d'ajouter que le témoignage de ces cinq Césaréens est au fond légalement tout à fait comme nul, puisqu'ils sont eux-mêmes des accusés comme nous.

3. Grâce à Dieu notre écriture est connue partout; qu'on nomme une Commission pour comparer l'écriture de ces deux lettres avec notre écriture. On sera bien convaincu que ces lettres ne sont point de nous.

4. Andon Reshdouni, l'homme unanimement connu à la tête de l'œuvre à Césarée, a déclaré maintes fois que personne ne peut savoir qui sont à la tête de leur Société; et que lui-même, il ne connaît pas ceux qui sont à la tête de leur œuvre à Marsovan ou à Athènes. Comment cela se fait-il donc, que ces quelques Césaréens ont pu connaître ceux que A. Reshdouni n'a pas pu?

5. D'ailleurs un témoignage pareil n'a aucune force légale. Si ces cinq personnes avaient signé une lettre, disant que Thoumaïan et Kayaïan ont une dette de £ T. 500 à une telle personne; ou bien encore, s'ils avaient dit qu'un tel membre de la tribune est à la tête de cette Société, aurait-on pris au sérieux un tel témoignage? Or, ce que l'on dit contre nous n'a pas plus d'importance que cela.

6. Après tout voilà un point capital qui prouve notre innocence. Parmi les accusés ici, il y a deux personnes qui, de leur aveu même, ont été à une réunion de la Société à Marsovan, comme les délégués de Yozghad et de Césarée. Ils doivent par conséquent avoir vu le Président Mené et le Secrétaire Vahram. Or, ces deux personnes ont déclaré devant vous que le Président et le Secrétaire de la Société n'étaient pas nous, et que le Président s'appelait Haroutioun Thoumaïan. S'il y a quelque doute à cet égard il est temps de vous en informer de nouveau. Qu'ils disent si c'était nous qui dirigeons cette réunion, ou s'ils nous ont jamais vu dans cette réunion comme membres ou même comme de simples auditeurs, ou bien s'ils nous ont jamais rencontré dans la ville et parlé avec nous. Ces deux personnes vous ont fait une description du visage et de l'aspect de Mené et Vahram, est-ce qu'il y avait là quelques traits semblables aux nôtres? En outre, il y a une contradiction dans les faits. Ces deux personnes disent que les membres de la réunion se sont enfermés dans une chambre nuit et jour trois jours sans se séparer, c'est-à-dire les 11 (23), 12 (24), 13 (25) Septembre, 1892. Or, il est bien facile de s'informer à la Direction du collège à Marsovan, et voir si nous étions absent du collège ces jours-là. Il est impossible que d'un côté nous soyons appliqués à notre devoir journalier au collège, et que de l'autre nous nous enfermions trois jours, nuit et jour, dans une chambre à faire des réunions. C'est très curieux qu'on ne donne aucune importance à ce témoignage net et catégorique. Tandis que l'on accorde une importance, qu'il ne mérite pas, à un témoignage douteux contradictoire des cinq Césaréens.

7. Il est pourtant évident que le nom Thoumaïan était connu dans leur Société. Mais, de l'aveu de plus de dix personnes, c'est un Haroutioun Thoumaïan et non pas Garabet Thoumaïan. Celui-là s'étant enfui depuis huit à dix mois a prouvé qu'il était en effet dans une telle œuvre. Tandis que moi ayant de l'opportunité favorable à m'enfuir je ne l'ai pas fait puisque ma conscience était bien tranquille. Il est vrai qu'il est quelquefois fait mention de Garabet Thoumaïan mais cela se comprend facilement; c'est tout simplement une confusion. Haroutioun, un laitier, n'étant pas bien connu, les gens en entendant le nom de Thoumaïan ont tout simplement et naturellement pensé à Garabet Thoumaïan, Professeur à l'Anatolia Collège, Marsovan.

Outre cette confusion involontaire, il est bien possible et probable même, que les gens de la Société eux-mêmes ont favorisé cette confusion pour recommander leur Société par mon nom, comme étant connu partout par le nombre de mes élèves répandus ici et là. De pareilles choses sont communes à ces sortes de Sociétés.

On pourra se demander si je ne peux pas être, moi aussi, dans la Société, aussi bien que Haroutioun. A cela je réponds, non. Nos relations familières sont de telles sortes que cela devient impossible. Nos pères—deux frères—après s'être querellé sur une question d'héritage, sont restés irréconciliés toute leur vie. De même les frères de Haroutioun ne sont pas en bon terme entre eux; l'un d'eux ne parle même pas avec lui; ce sont là des faits et non pas de fictions et tout le monde à Marsovan peut le confirmer. De sorte que par le fait que Haroutioun est dans cette Société, il est prouvé que je ne puis y être.

Supposons, cependant, que quelques personnes, par force ou par d'autres considérations, ont été obligées à dire que Thoumaïan et Kayaïan sont dans cette Société, qu'est-ce que cela prouve? puisqu'ils sont des accusés comme nous. Tandis que moi je puis trouver des milliers de gens non accusés, qui soient prêts à dire que Thoumaïan n'est et ne peut être dans de telle Société.

8. Quant à ces quelques papiers qui sont arrivés ici ces jours derniers de Constantinople et de Sivas, malgré tout le respect que je dois aux personnages de haut rang d'où ces papiers émanent, permettez-moi, M. le Président, de dire que ces papiers-là ne peuvent avoir aucune importance, puisqu'ils sont simplement une répétition des anciens, sans apporter aucune lumière nouvelle. Ces papiers vous présentent les opinions que son Excellence le Vali de Sivas et d'autres officiers se sont formé de loin au sujet de notre question. Si nous devions être jugés d'après l'opinion de tel ou tel officier, pourquoi nous trouvons-nous en présence des Juges? C'est vous, M. le Président, qui doit nous juger et condamner d'après ce que vous entendez ici, et non pas tel ou tel officier, ou d'après leur opinion. La question principale est de savoir s'il y a quelque chose d'important dans les renseignements que ces papiers vous communiquent, et c'est bien ce que je nie. Examinons-les donc de près. Le Vali de Sivas rapporte qu'on a trouvé quelqu'un à Sivas disant que Garabet Thoumaïan est aussi dans la Société; or, il est de règle que les témoins doivent rendre leur témoignage devant les Juges. Qui sait dans quelles circonstances il a été obligé à dire cela? Qui nous dit qu'il n'a pas été obligé, forcé, à le dire, comme vous avez vu que cela était le cas avec tant d'autres. De plus, il ne suffit pas de dire que Garabet Thoumaïan aussi est dans la Société; il s'agit de le prouver, de montrer d'où il a appris cela. On ne peut condamner quelqu'un avec un "dit-on."

Nous allons parler un peu plus loin du prêtre de Gémérek, dont il a été fait allusion par le Vali de Sivas.

Un autre papier du Vali de Sivas constate comme quoi d'après les renseignements de l'Ambassade d'Amérique les missionnaires Américains eux-mêmes sont convaincus de notre culpabilité, de ce qu'ils ont effacé nos noms de la liste des professeurs du collège. En réponse à cela nous disons qu'il doit y avoir un malentendu là-dessus, car effacer nos noms de la liste des professeurs n'appartient ni aux missionnaires, ni même à l'Ambassadeur Américain. Le collège a un Comité Spécial à Marsovan, dont je suis moi-même le Président, et c'est à ce Comité qu'appartient la nomination et le renvoi des professeurs. Pour des renseignements plus sûrs à cet égard, je vous prie, M. le Président, de bien vouloir télégraphier maintenant même, à mes propres frais, au Directeur du Collège à Marsovan, pour savoir si nous sommes vraiment renvoyés du collège?

9. M. le Président, ma fidélité au Gouvernement Ottoman peut être prouvé aussi par le fait que tandis que la plupart des Arméniens qui séjournent quelques temps en Europe ou en Amérique changent leur nationalité, moi, au contraire, après un séjour de dix ans à peu près, je n'ai pas changé ma nationalité, quand bien même j'aurai pu avoir plus de facilité en cela, vu que je suis marié en Suisse. Et depuis treize ans que je suis de retour à Marsovan je suis toujours prêt à rendre tout le service et faire tous les sacrifices possibles à mon pays et à mon Gouvernement. Vous pouvez, par exemple, vous informer à Marsovan combien de fois j'ai proposé à donner des leçons de Français à l'école Rushdié, pour que les jeunes gens Turcs de Marsovan ne soient pas privés du privilège que la jeunesse Chrétienne a au collège. Mais toutes les fois ma proposition fut rejetée; c'est donc leur faute.

II.

Le second point de l'accusation contre nous est tiré du voyage que nous avons fait, il y a deux ans, à Césarée et à Sivas. On veut attribuer un but politique caché à ce voyage. Ceci de même n'est que le résultat des soupçons, sans nulles preuves positives. A cet égard il faut considérer :—

1. Qu'il n'y a rien de caché dans ce voyage. C'est avec la permission du Gouvernement Local que nous l'avons entrepris. Nous avons pris le permis de voyage ("Teskéré"), et nous l'avons fait par la grande route, et non pas par des chemins cachés.

2. Ce voyage fut entrepris au mois de Juillet et Août, c'est-à-dire, pendant les mois de vacances. Il est d'habitude de faire des tournées dans les vacances partout en Europe et en Amérique, et avec plus de frais que le nôtre.

3. Nous avons choisi le chemin le plus court, la grande route, avec un seul détour à Boghaze Koi (l'ancien Ptérium) pour visiter les célèbres restes de l'antiquité.

Il y a des gens qui viennent exprès pour les voir depuis l'Europe, est-ce donc étonnant qu'en passant près de cette place nous y ayons consacré un jour. Nous ne connaissons pas de chemins plus courts praticables par les Chars, sans cela nous l'aurions pris.

4. Nous avons fait cette tournée dans une intervalle de temps le plus court possible, sans perdre du temps. Nous sommes passé par Tchorum, Yozghad, Cesarée, Gemerek, Bourhan, Sivas, Tokat, Amassia. Tout le voyage a duré moins de cinq semaines, d'où il faut déduire naturellement les cinq Dimanches, jour pendant lequel les Protestants ne voyagent pas. De sorte qu'en déduisant les Dimanches notre voyage n'a pas même duré quatre semaines. Dans certaines villes nous ne sommes pas du tout resté, comme Tchorum et Amassia, dans d'autres nous ne sommes resté qu'un jour ou deux seulement, comme Yozghad, Sivas, Tokat. Quel visiteur pourrait-il jamais rester moins que cela dans de telles places, lorsqu'il les visite la première fois ? Si nous avions un but caché, révolutionnaire, pourquoi ne sommes-nous pas resté plus longtemps dans ces centres Arméniens, pour voir le plus de personnes possible ? qu'est-ce qui nous en empêchait ? C'est seulement à Césarée que nous sommes resté une semaine par diverses considérations : (*a*) car la ville est plus importante à voir ; (*b*) puis parce que la seule église Protestante de quelque importance se trouve là ; (*c*) et aussi parce que nous tenions faire une partie de nos comptes en présence du pasteur de Césarée, comme nous l'avions expliqué dans notre "Ifadé" ; (*d*) et enfin parce que nous fûmes obligés à attendre là les chevaux et les guides, qui ont retardé quelques jours, pour nous conduire à Gémérek et à Bourhan. Que l'on fasse une enquête minutieuse pour voir si nous y avons fait quoique ce soit en faveur de la Société en question. Il y a ici parmi les accusés tant de Césaréens qu'on leur demande ici même si aucun d'eux nous a vu, ou parlé avec nous à Césarée. On parle d'un Déckran Gulbenkïan comme notre intermédiaire en cela. Or nous sommes prêts à démontrer par des preuves incontestables que ce monsieur était à Marsovan et pas à Césarée, lors de notre visite à Césarée.

Outre cela, quelques jours après notre passage par le célèbre couvent de Césarée, il devait être célébré une fête solennelle dans ce couvent, où viennent se grouper des milliers d'Arméniens de tous les côtés. Si nous avions un but politique à accomplir parmi les Arméniens, quelle singulière occasion pour nous à passer les jours de fête au milieu de cette multitude ; et pourtant nous n'y sommes restés qu'une seule nuit. Quelle preuve plus évidente pour montrer que nous n'avions aucun but caché politique que l'on veut nous attribuer.

5. Pourquoi donc aller chercher de si loin des buts cachés à notre voyage, puisque le vrai but réel est évident et constaté par plusieurs. Ce but là c'était de faire nos comptes avec notre homme d'affaire à Bourhan, de régler et de finir notre affaire avec lui si cela était possible. A Bourhan nous avions commencé une affaire de commerce avec £T. 150 à £T. 200, et dont les comptes ne nous étaient pas donnés depuis quatre à cinq ans, malgré nos instances fréquentes, nous n'avions pas non plus pu en retirer un sou pendant tout ce temps. Qui de vous, M. le Président, ne voudra pas consacrer quelques semaines de ses vacances pour aller régler une telle affaire, qui d'après nos calculs peut monter à 300, 400, et 500 livres ?

Il faut pourtant ajouter à ce but principal d'autres plus secondaires, faire un changement d'air, voir différentes nouvelles villes et villages, visiter nos anciens élèves, leurs parents et amis, enrôler de nouveaux élèves, être présent à la noce de notre homme d'affaire à Bourhan, visiter nos églises Protestantes en prêchant partout où nous passions, et tenant des services religieux. Les professeurs de notre collège ont l'habitude de faire des tournées de vacances, ne fusse que pour tenir des réunions religieuses. Or, je vous demande de nouveau, est-ce extraordinaire si nous avons consacré quatre semaines de nos vacances à ces différents buts mentionnés ?

6. Dans tout ce voyage il n'y a que les quelques paroles incertaines de quelques individus de Gémérek qui ait une couleur politique. Mais ici même on sait combien on a tâché partout de susciter de faux témoins contre nous sans pouvoir y réussir partout, grâce à Dieu.

En premier lieu ces Gémérekly eux-mêmes ont réfuté publiquement devant vous tout ce qu'on leur a fait dire par force. Ils ont dit que l'on a changé leur "Ifadé" en différents endroits. Ils ont même soupçonné l'identité de leur signature vu qu'il est signé seulement en Ture sans mettre dessous l'Arménien, comme font toujours les Chrétiens. Vous avez déjà décidé, vous vous souvenez, il y a quelques jours, que seulement les témoignages rendus devant nous seront regardés acceptables, et non pas les "Ifadés" donnés ailleurs. La conséquence en est bien claire. Quant à nous, nous n'acceptons nullement l'existence de telles conversations politiques en aucun endroit. Nous nous souvenons seulement que lors de notre séjour à Bourhan, les collecteurs

d'impôts étant arrivés là, et donnant beaucoup de troubles aux pauvres paysans, jusqu'à prendre leurs bœufs et leurs ustensils, ils sont venus nous en parler, et dire comment dans pareils cas ils ont l'habitude de faire au collecteur un présent de 5 ou 6 méjidiés pour qu'il passe outre et ne revienne que le plus tard possible. Alors nous avons dit aux chefs des Protestants et des Arméniens, qui étaient là à Bourhan à l'occasion de la noce, qu'ils ne faisaient pas bien, et que puisque ces méjidiés ne sont pas inscrits aux comptes des paysans, sont perdus, soit pour le pays ou lui-même, soit pour le Gouvernement, et qu'ils doivent collecter l'impôt eux-mêmes d'avance pour qu'il soit prêt à l'arrivée des zaptiés, et que de l'autre côté ils doivent porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement, par des Pétitions régulières, les troubles que donnent les zaptiés. Qu'y a-t-il donc de nuisible dans cet entretien ? ou bien qu'auriez-vous dit autre, si vous étiez à notre place dans de telles circonstances ?

En second lieu, supposons que la conversation telle qu'elle est écrite dans les "Ifadés" soit réelle, ce que je n'accepte nullement, qu'y a-t-il de nuisible là-dedans ? Il y est dit que Hagov Bahlav et le *preacher* de l'église Protestante, Mardirosse Kalonodïan, jusque-là en mauvais terme entre eux sont devenus des amis après notre visite. Nous ne savons rien de leur relation première, mais ce n'est pas la première fois au monde que deux hommes deviennent des amis, et si en effet c'est nous qui fûmes la cause de cette réconciliation nous en rendons grâces à Dieu ; il n'y a là rien d'étonnant, car c'est notre devoir comme pasteurs de travailler à répandre la paix parmi les hommes. Cette réconciliation doit en tout cas être le résultat de mon sermon dans l'église Arménienne à Gémérek, sur le vrai Christianisme, dans lequel j'ai montré que le Christianisme consiste dans l'amour, d'un côté à aimer Dieu, de l'autre, aimer les hommes. Si la prédication n'a pas d'influence sur le cœur humain, pourquoi donc le Gouvernement fait toujours prêcher dans les mosquées et dans les églises ?

En troisième lieu, nous arrivons à cette lettre du Vali de Sivas qui vient d'arriver aujourd'hui même, et d'après laquelle un prêtre de Gémérek aurait dit que nous avons fait ouvrir l'église à une heure inaccoutumée vers le midi, et où nous avons fait un discours révolutionnaire. Permettez-moi de demander si par hasard c'est de Marsovan que j'ai apporté avec moi les clefs de leur église, n'est-ce pas plutôt lui le prêtre qui est responsable d'avoir ouvert leur église, et de me permettre à y prêcher, et si mon discours était vraiment révolutionnaire, pourquoi lui, prêtre et homme fidèle au Gouvernement, n'a pas de suite rapporté cela au Gouvernement, au lieu d'attendre deux ans, et de le communiquer juste à la dernière heure ? C'est justement cela qui rend tout cela bien suspect. Si ce prêtre ou d'autres comme lui veulent rendre un témoignage quelconque contre nous il faut qu'ils se présentent devant vous et fassent leur témoignage en notre présence. Dans tout ceci le fait pur et simple est que nous sommes arrivés à Gémérek Samedi soir, le *preacher* du village m'a invité de prêcher le lendemain dans la chapelle Protestante, ce que j'ai accepté, et me suis rendu à la chapelle le lendemain à l'heure ordinaire de la prière. J'ai été déjà en chaire lorsque l'on est venu me dire que la place étant petite et une grande foule désirant entendre le sermon, on prie d'aller prêcher dans l'église Arménienne. C'est ce que j'ai accepté et me suis rendu à l'église et prêché là en présence d'un prêtre. S'il y a une faute là dedans c'est le prêtre qui en est responsable. Et si j'ai dit des paroles excitantes à cette occasion le prêtre n'était pas là le seul, il y avait tant de monde là, pourquoi après avoir rudement travaillé à persuader les gens contre nous, on n'a trouvé que le seul prêtre ?

Quatrièmement, on m'accuse d'avoir dit à Gémérek que les Arméniens et les Protestants doivent être en bon terme entre eux. Je vous demande donc, est-ce que cela est contre l'État ? Qu'est-ce que le Gouvernement préfère donc, que les peuples soient en paix entre eux, ou en querelle continuelle ? Dites-le nous tout simplement pour que nous prêchions de la sorte désormais. N'est-ce pas que tout l'effort de notre Gouvernement c'est d'ôter du milieu l'ancienne adversité et l'inimitié entre les différentes nationalités et les religions ? De centaines ont entendu mes sermons jusqu'à présent, et peuvent constater à la rigueur qu'en fait de vivre en paix je ne fais aucune différence entre l'Arménien, le Ture, et le Tscherkese. Je n'ai jamais excité l'un contre l'autre.

Et si à l'occasion des maltraitements dont les paysans nous parlaient, je leur ai dit qu'ils ne devaient pas se laisser maltraiter, est-ce un péché ? Ou bien lorsqu'ayant été questionné pour l'emploi des armes, si je leur ai dit que chacun peut avoir une arme pour sa défense, sera-ce un crime ? quand bien même je répète que de telle conversation n'a point eu lieu. Si je ne me trompe pas, il n'y a pas encore une loi qui défende à tout individu d'avoir une arme. N'est-ce pas vrai qu'on vend des armes dans les boutiques publiquement ? Si en effet tous ceux qui ont des armes doivent être

emprisonnés c'est moi, je crois, qui sera l'une des personnes rares qui resteront hors de la prison, car je n'en ai aucune, et je ne les ai jamais aimé.

7. Enfin on dit que c'est justement dans les endroits où nous sommes passés que ces annonces ont été affichées. Dans la logique cela s'appelle le sophisme *d'après cela à cause de cela*. If faut se rappeler que tout antécédent n'est pas la cause du suivant:—

(*a.*) Il faut se souvenir qu'il s'est écoulé 1½ années entre notre voyage et les affiches; que de choses ne peuvent pas être arrivées pendant ces 1½ années!

(*b.*) Qui peut assurer qu'après où avant nous d'autres gens n'ont pas passés par là, qui sait les vraies causes de ces affiches. C'est même plus que probable puisque l'on cite un nommé Jiraire, qui se trouve par-là.

(*c.*) Ces affiches ont eu lieu aussi bien dans les endroits où nous ne sommes pas passés, et dans certains endroits où nous sommes passés n'ont pas été affichés.

(*d.*) Si dans ces endroits où nous sommes passés il y avait eu lieu une maladie quelconque ou du choléra, est-ce que nous en aurions été regardés la cause et traités comme on traitait les Juifs en Europe au moyen-age?

(*e.*) Enfin, nous vous prions, M. le Président, de nous fixer exactement la limite du temps, jusqu'où doit s'étendre l'influence fâcheuse de ce malheureux voyage. Jusqu'à quand serons nous responsables de tout ce qui arrive dans ces côtés-là?

III.

J'arrive maintenant au troisième point de l'accusation, j'entends à celui que l'on tire de notre œuvre de l'hôpital. Permettez-moi ici de vous demander de laisser de côté ce point de mon accusation, pour que le Tribunal d'un État dont je suis moi-même le sujet depuis quarante ans, ne soit pas l'objet du mépris des étrangers. Il y a des centaines de personnes en Europe de tout rang et de toute position qui ont pris part à la collecte ouverte par ma femme, en vue d'un hôpital pour les malades pauvres de la Turquie. Si par hasard vous allez me condamner pour cela, on s'en moquera en Europe comme un acte indigne. Ceux qui ont pris part de cette collecte en Europe ne sont pas si naïfs qu'on puisse les tromper en prenant d'eux de l'argent pour une œuvre révolutionnaire sous le prétexte d'un hôpital.

Commençons maintenant l'examen de la question même après cette remarque.

1. Quelle preuve y a-t-il de cela? Les lettres de ma femme à ce sujet sont ici; a-t-on pu trouver la moindre indice de ce que l'on soupçonne? Mais si on tenait à arriver à une plus grande certitude, il n'y a qu'à demander à l'Ambassade Ottomane de Londres de s'informer auprès du caissier au sujet de l'argent collecté par ma femme, je suis prêt à vous en donner l'adresse. Vous pouvez apprendre par là s'il m'a jamais envoyé de l'argent excepté ces 100 livres que j'emploie pour les malades depuis un [?] et demi. Je prie avec instance de faire cette enquête depuis quatre mois, mais inutile, on continue toujours à soupçonner cette œuvre de l'hôpital sans prendre la peine de s'enquérir à cet égard. Je vous supplie, M. le Président, qu'on ouvre une enquête à cet égard à Londres à mes propre frais.

2. Ce que l'on avance n'est pas du tout fondé. En Europe on est libre de collecter de l'argent, même pour des œuvres révolutionnaires, sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'un hôpital comme prétexte.

3. Quels motifs peut avoir une dame d'Europe à laisser mari et enfants pour aller collecter de l'argent pour un état imaginaire qui doit se fonder sur les montagnes de l'Arménie, dont elle n'a peut-être jamais entendu le nom? Si c'était moi ou un autre Arménien, à la bonne heure, mais il est impossible de prêter une telle intention à une dame Européenne, qui n'a habitée en Turquie que trois ou quatre ans, sans jamais avoir sorti de Marsovan, qui ne sait ni la langue Arménienne ni la langue Turque, qui ne peut distinguer l'Arménien du Turc, qui ne sait pas même où est l'Arménie, ignorant complètement les questions Arméniennes ou Turques. C'est ce que prouvent les questions naïves qu'elle me fait dans ses lettres, questions qui sont connues des enfants mêmes de la Turquie. Prêter une intention politique, cachée à l'œuvre de pure charité Chrétienne d'une telle dame est impardonnable.

4. On me demande pourquoi nous avons commencé à collecter de l'argent pour l'hôpital, et soigner les malades. A cela je réponds. L'hôpital se trouve sous la surveillance de l'Église Protestante à Marsovan, quand bien même des malades de toute nationalité et de toute religion peuvent y être soignés. La communauté Protestante ayant par un Firman Impérial le privilège d'accomplir tous les actes relatives à leur religion, sans aucun empêchement, de l'autre côté le soin des malades

et pauvres faisant une partie de notre service religieux Protestant, et pour lequel nous avons un officier ecclésiastique spécial, nommé diacre, selon le rite Protestant, nous nous sommes cru capable pour mettre la main à l'œuvre. Cela va sans dire que lors que la collecte étant finie, tout est prêt à commencer le bâtiment de l'hôpital, on demandera la permission au Gouvernement. Du reste jusqu'ici on ne pouvait pas s'adresser au Gouvernement, car il n'y avait rien de prêt pour se fonder là-dessus, ni argent, ni plan, ni emplacement sur lequel on puisse bâtir; tout était en idée; et quoi bon fatiguer le Gouvernement par de pûres idées. Il fallait d'abord assurer le capital pour demander après la permission au Gouvernement, et nous étions sûrs que dans de telles circonstances le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan ne nous refusera pas la permission d'une telle œuvre de charité. Lui qui pense sans cesse aux pauvres et aux malades parmi ses sujets et qui a pris dernièrement sous sa protection la grande œuvre de l'Asile Internationale à Constantinople. D'ailleurs il y avait un autre inconvénient à demander la permission pour commencer la collecte. Car la collecte devait se faire en Europe, et par une dame Européenne, et c'eut été honteux pour notre Gouvernement de donner la permission d'aller collecter en Europe pour les pauvres de son pays. Tandis que l'affaire a pris tout un autre aspect lorsqu'une dame est aller collecter pour son propre compte. Il n'a pas été jusqu'ici nécessaire de demander permission pour de telles entreprises individuelles. On a vu maintes fois que l'on fait des collectes en Europe et en Amérique en vue des victimes de famine, des incendies, des innondations, &c. Nous lisons ces jours-ci que l'on fait de telles collectes en faveur des affligés par le tremblement de terre à Malatia. Pas un de ces élans de charité n'ont pas pris permission d'avance. Depuis un certain nombre d'années il y a un hôpital et un orphelinat à Sivas devant les yeux du Vali; tous les deux n'ont pas la permission.

5. Supposons, cependant, qu'après tout il fallait prendre permission, et que nous avons commis une faute en commençant cette entreprise sans la permission, qu'est-ce que cela a avec notre question? Suis-je cité devant vous parce que j'ai entrepris une œuvre d'hôpital sans permission, ou bien suis-je un accusé politique? Si c'est un crime que de travailler sans permission pour les malades pauvres, qu'on me juge et me condamne pour cela, mais on ne doit pas alors me regarder comme un accusé politique. Si, au contraire, je me tiens devant vous comme accusé politique, qu'on laisse de côté cette question de l'hôpital pour être jugé, traité à part si l'on veut.

Permettez-moi, M. le Président, d'exprimer ma propre pensée et conviction profonde aux considérations que j'ai fait jusqu'ici. Une dame Européenne, après un séjour de trois à quatre ans en Turquie, ayant vu les souffrances et la mort prématurée des malades pauvres, la manque totale des pharmacies en certains lieux, et les victimes des remèdes vieux et falsifiés, s'est émue en compassion, et renonçant à ses aises et à ses conforts, s'est dévouée à procurer un moyen de pouvoir soigner gratis ces malades pauvres de la Turquie, et voilà que le mari de cette femme compatissante issue d'une famille noble de la France, est cité devant vous comme un criminel pour cela. C'est là le fait dans toute sa nudité. Tandis que moi, je proteste contre un tel scandal, et prétend qu'une telle œuvre de charité est plutôt digne de grandes récompenses, et suis persuadé que, si son Excellence Impériale apprend la question dans toute sa simplicité, et je suis convaincu qu'il ne manquera pas de l'apprendre enfin un jour, il sera ému de compassion, et, au lieu de me livrer à la prison et à la mort, il accordera à ma femme l'honneur de "Schéfakate," pour exciter les dames de la Turquie à l'imiter, et à chercher l'honneur vrai dans les œuvres de charité.

Quant à moi, la seule consolation que j'ai c'est le bon témoignage de la conscience que j'ai d'avoir jusqu'ici accompli mon devoir envers Dieu, envers les hommes, et envers l'État, tout à fait semblable à cet homme célèbre qui se tenait devant le Tribunal d'Athènes il y a 2,300 ans. Cet homme juste et innocent, accusé comme s'il corrompait la jeunesse, c'est Socrate. Loin de moi l'idée de vouloir m'égaler, pas même me comparer avec la vertu, le renom, et la dignité de ce héro de l'antiquité; ce que je veux dire c'est que les circonstances où je me trouve est pareille aux siennes. Les Juges d'Athènes ont indignement condamnés cet homme, et l'histoire depuis 2,300 ans justifiant Socrate condamne ses Juges. J'ai de fortes raisons pour croire que l'histoire agira tout à fait de la même manière pour vous, MM. les Juges, et pour moi, si, moquant de votre condamnation, si vraiment vous allez me condamner, malgré toute l'évidence en ma faveur. Messieurs, c'est terrible que d'être l'objet de la condamnation de tous les âges à venir. Je voudrais bien vous en épagner. Ne me condamnez pas pour que vous ne soyez pas condamnés éternellement; c'est là mon conseil. Ma dernière défense c'est votre propre conscience, auxquelles je m'adresse. Vous êtes libres de me condamner, mais sachez bien que Dieu aussi vous jugera un jour

à cause de cette condamnation si vous me jugez avec parti pris, et contre le témoignage de votre conscience.

(Signé) G. THOUMAÏAN, *Professeur à l'Anatolia Collège, et Ministre de Jésus-Christ.*

Angora, le 30 *Mai*, 1893.

Inclosure 3 in No. 124.

Defence of M. Kayaïan.

M. le Président,

PERMETTEZ-MOI de faire quelques additions sur ce que j'ai dit jusqu'à présent, d'abord sur les deux lettres qui sont au milieu, puis relativement au voyage.

I.

Ces cinq ou six personnes qui ont signées ces deux lettres comme étant de nous, doivent ou bien nous avoir vu et parlé avec nous, ou bien avoir reçu de nous des lettres par notre signature, ou bien encore ils doivent avoir entendu sur nous par la personne ou les personnes qui leur ont apporté ces deux lettres misibles, surtout par Houhannes Arsoumanïan, qui étant venu à Marsovan comme délégué doit avoir vu en personne Mené et Vahram. Or,

1. Ils ne nous ont jamais vu ni parlé avec nous. Cela est évident soit de leurs Hadés, soit de ce qu'ils ont déclaré ici devant vous. Il y a seulement Kéropé Papasïan qui a dit dans son Hadé que lui et ses trois ou quatre compagnons m'ont vu dans la maison du Révérend Kéropé Yakoubïan, nôtre hôte, par l'intermédiaire de M. Diekran Gulbenkïan. Or,

(*a.*) Alors D. Gulbenkïan était à Morsovan et non pas à Césarée, et c'est lui, D. Gulbenkïan, qui nous a recommandé le voiturier que nous avons loué pour notre voyage, Ghara-Kiamile.

(*b.*) Révérend Kéropé Yakoubïan, pasteur de l'Église Protestante à Césarée, et ses enfants, peuvent dire si jamais il y a eû une telle réunion ou entrevue chez eux, ou s'ils ont jamais vu K. Papasïan et ses amis ou compagnons.

(*c.*) Les compagnons de K. Papasïan disent et redisent maintes fois qu'ils ne m'ont jamais vu ni parlé avec moi. Par conséquent, l'Hadé de K. Papasïan est absolument sans valeur à cet égard.

2. Pour m'avoir connu ils auraient dû avoir correspondu avec moi. Qu'ils montre une telle lettre de moi et de mon écriture et signature. Ils ont écrit de mémoire le contenu de leurs lettres brûlées, et remis au Gouverneur de Césarée, même alors ils ont répété qu'ils ne me connaissent point. S'ils ont pourtant reçu une telle lettre de moi, et qu'ils n'ont pas déclaré jusqu'ici, qu'ils le fassent au moins maintenant.

3. Ils auraient dû avoir entendu de nous et de notre prétendu office, comme Président et Secrétaire, des personnes qui leur ont apporté ces lettres, et surtout de Houhannes Arsoumanïan. Qu'ils nous disent donc par qui nous leur avons envoyé ces lettres. Ou bien est-ce que H. Arsoumanïan nous a vu et leur a parlé de nous? Ce sont eux-mêmes qui déclarent de n'avoir rien appris sur nous de H. Arsoumanïan. En outre ce H. Arsoumanïan, délégué de Césarée à la réunion de Marsovan, et Misak Kétéshéjïan, délégué de Yosghad, n'ont rien dit soit dans leurs Hadés, soit ici devant nous de nature à vous montrer qu'ils nous ont vu ou parlé avec nous. Au contraire, ils donnent la description et les traits de visage de Mené et de Vahram qui ne ressemblent nullement aux nôtres. De plus ils déclarent ouvertement que dans la réunion ou ailleurs à Marsovan, ils ne nous ont pas vu. Et, en effet, ils ne pourraient pas nous avoir vu, puisque nous ne savons rien de cette réunion, et les jours assignés à cette réunion, 11, 12, et 13 Septembre, nous étions occupés à nos devoirs ordinaires au collège. C'est ce que nous pouvons prouver par les professeurs, les élèves, &c., du collège.

Deux mots aussi pour expliquer pourquoi mon nom se trouve lié avec celui de M. G. Thoumaïan. On a déjà bien compris qu'on a placé G. Thoumaïan à la place de H. Thoumaïan qui s'est enfui depuis des mois; et moi, comme je suis auprès de G. Thoumaïan depuis treize ans, d'abord comme élève puis comme son compagnon et professeur au collège, puis encore comme M. G. Thoumaïan est le Président du Conseil d'église et moi le Secrétaire du même Conseil, puis enfin comme dans l'affaire commerciale de Bourhan nous sommes des associés, et nous avons fait le voyage

ensemble, pour tout cela il est très naturel que nos noms fussent liés ensembles dans la mémoire du peuple comme les deux professeurs du collège les plus anciens.

II.

Quant au voyage d'il y a deux ans, ça n'a été fait que pour régler notre compte à Bourhan, pour faire un changement d'air, pour voir et connaître les parents et amis de nos élèves et pour visiter les villes d'alentour. Nous avons fait ce voyage dans toutes les règles, avec des permis de voyage. Nous avons passés partout comme la poste, restant seulement une semaine à Césarée et quelques jours à Bourhan, et cela principalement pour régler notre affaire de commerce. Nous avons dit les noms des lieux où nous sommes restés et des personnes que nous avons vues. Si nous avions des intentions révolutionnaires, nous serions restés plus longtemps au célèbre Couvent de Césarée, où devait se réunir une foule d'Arméniens de différentes villes de l'Asie, et cela seulement deux jours après notre passage par là. Quelle opportunité pour une œuvre révolutionnaire, et cependant nous n'y sommes arrêtés qu'une seule nuit, malgré les instances du moine du couvent, et nous nous sommes dirigés vers Bourhan. De même si nous avions une intention révolutionnaire nous aurions dû nous arrêter à Sivas et à Tokat, villes centres des Arméniens, tandis que nous n'y sommes arrêtés qu'un à deux jours. Encore un point qui n'est pas à dédaigner. Nous avons accompli notre voyage toujours avec les voitures des Turcs, un voyageur d'intention suspecte ne préférerait-il pas des voituriers Arméniens?

Quant aux papiers qui sont arrivés ces derniers jours de Sivas, ceux-ci ne comprennent rien de nouveau. Surtout le Rapport de l'Ambassade d'Amérique doit être le résultat d'un malentendu, fondé sur les faux données de Mr. Newbury, qui a excité la colère de tous les Américains qui aiment la justice et la vérité. Il est facile de s'en assurer en télégraphiant au Directeur du collège à Marsovan.

Les témoignages d'un nommé Garabet Nischanïan, à Sivas, et celui du prêtre et maître de Gémérek, sont non fondés, et faciles à réfuter. Il fallait qu'ils viennent se présenter ici, devant vous et nous pour que nous voyions quelles sortes de gens ce sont. Dans des questions pareilles, où il s'agit de notre vie et de notre mort, les "dit-on" n'ont point de valeur et ne peuvent être que fabriqués de toutes pièces à cette occasion, par des gens malveillants.

Une autre preuve de notre innocence. Le Gouvernement à notre insu nous poursuit depuis un an et demi. Si nous étions les malfaiteurs que l'on prétend le Gouvernement aurait dû trouver plus d'une preuve positive contre nous, tandis qu'aujourd'hui il n'y a pas même une de telles preuves de nature à nous condamner. Ma conscience est tranquille car je connais mon innocence. Je remets mon affaire à votre conscience et votre conscience à Dieu.

(Signé) H. T. KAYAÏAN.

Angora, le 30 *Mai*, 1893.

No. 125.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 306.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 3, 1893.

WITH reference to Sir C. Ford's despatch No. 257 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Jones, on the subject of the Armenian exiles in Rhodes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Vice-Consul Jones to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Rhodes, June* 29, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 13th instant relative to the transportation to this island of two Armenian professors from the Vilayet of Broussa.

I have the honour to report that from inquiries made it appears that two Armenian professors, whose names I have hitherto been unable to learn, arrived here about a month ago for detention within the bounds of the city. A few days after their arrival, however, another exile having effected his escape to one of the villages in the island, the authorities who had received orders from Constantinople to guard the exiled professors with the strictest vigilance, decided to place them for greater security in the large gaol, and it is said that his Excellency the Vali at once referred to the Central Government for further instructions with reference to their case.

As far as I have been able to learn, these exiles are not otherwise being subjected to harsh treatment, and although for the present they are detained within the prison, they have a room apart from the other prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 126.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 307.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 5, 1893.*

I RECEIVED a message at midnight on the 3rd instant requesting me to repair at an early hour on the following morning to the private residence of the Grand Vizier.

I found his Highness in company with the Foreign Minister, and they informed me that the Cour de Cassation had confirmed the sentences passed by the Angora Tribunal; but that the Sultan, in the exercise of his Imperial clemency, had pardoned Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan, that these gentlemen would be at once liberated, but that they would be required to leave the Ottoman dominions with the least possible delay. I inquired when the orders to the above effect would be sent to Angora, and both Ministers told me that they would be dispatched, without fail, the same afternoon, so that the prisoners could start for their distination, wherever that might be, the following day. To avoid all misunderstanding, I repeated the terms of the communication word by word to the Ministers, and said I would telegraph them at once to your Lordship.

The work of the Court of Cassation must have been hastened through with wonderful rapidity, and its decisions may be appraised at the same value as those of the lower Tribunal. At the same time, I should remark that if the Court of Cassation had quashed the sentences, the whole case would have had to be retried at Angora, and a situation which was as vexatious as it was painful, would have been prolonged.

With respect to the banishment from the Ottoman Empire, I can only repeat my conviction that it is in the interests of the accused themselves that they should not continue their residence in this country; and moreover, I do not see how the right of an absolute Sovereign to expatriate such of his subjects as he thinks proper, can well be contested, whatever opinion may be held as to the justice of such a step.

In regard to the other prisoners condemned for political offences, I may remark that I am taking steps which, I trust, will lead to a mitigation of their sentences, and I have hopes that the Sultan will be pleased to extend his clemency beyond the two cases in which it has been at present exercised. In any case I have no fear of any death penalties being executed.

I trust that the whole of this sad affair will be satisfactorily terminated before long, and without touching on many aspects of the case which I would prefer to avoid in an official despatch, I would hope that its close and the condition of affairs which it has brought to light, will lead to some serious measures being taken to remove all causes for discontent and disaffection, and that the several classes and races of this Empire will be able to live together in peace and harmony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 127.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 309.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 7, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 201 of the 30th June, I have the honour to state that yesterday I had a conversation with a gentleman who has also received several details in regard to tortures alleged to have been practised on Armenian prisoners. He told me that similar cases had occurred at Yuzgat and at Tchorum, as well as at Kaisarieh, to which last place the complaints we have received exclusively refer. Your Lordship will have received the details of the ill-treatment which was inflicted. At first sight it would appear impossible that a man could be hung up by the heels for some hours without dying; but I am informed that the head and shoulders are allowed to rest on the ground, and that the man is placed much in the same position as one who is to receive the bastinado. The position termed "domouz topou" is, I am informed, really placing the man in the stocks. The other tortures and ill-treatment need no explanation.

I would ask your Lordship what action should be taken at the Sublime Porte on the subject. It would, I submit, be hardly possible to reveal the names of the sufferers in view of the source whence the information reached this Embassy, and it may be taken as certain that the Porte will stoutly deny the possibility of any such ill-treatment having been inflicted. The natural course would be to demand an inquiry, but any investigation conducted solely by Ottoman officials will result in the exculpation of all the Ottoman authorities who could possibly be implicated in the affair. There is the alternative of asking for the presence of a British Consular officer in any Commission of Inquiry, but I do not know if your Lordship would wish to make such a request. I have ventured to submit the above considerations to your Lordship's notice, and will await any instructions with which it may be thought desirable to furnish me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 128.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, July 11, 1893, 8 A.M.*

PROFESSORS Thoumaian and Kayayan left for Brindisi yesterday afternoon by Austrian Lloyd steamer.

No. 129.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 173 c.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 11, 1893.*

THE Turkish Ambassador read to me yesterday a lengthy protest from his Government with regard to my recent answer in the House of Lords about the Armenian prisoners.

I told his Excellency that if he wished me to make any reply to this voluminous document he must send me a copy of it, and it might be as well that he should ask his Government if it was their desire that he should do so.

His Excellency stated that he would telegraph to Constantinople for instructions, and, in the meantime, begged that his communication might be considered as private and unofficial.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 130.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 174.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 290 and 294 of the 30th ultimo, giving an account of your conversations with the Grand Vizier and Saïd Pasha on the subject of the Armenian prisoners, when you urged the necessity of bringing their case to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion, and I approve the language which you held to these Ministers as reported in the despatches referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 131.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 176.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 13, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 300 of the 2nd instant, reporting that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had announced to you the intention of the Sultan to commute the sentence of death passed on Messrs. Thounaian and Kayayan to banishment from the Ottoman Empire, and I approve the language which you held to Saïd Pasha with regard to the other prisoners condemned by the Court at Angora.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 132.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, July* 14, 1893, 10·45 A.M.

THE *procès-verbaux* relating to the Angora trials are to be published by the Porte. They will, I expect, be largely cooked.

A despatch giving all the details obtainable as to the cases of the other prisoners will be sent by next messenger.

No. 133.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 177.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 309 of the 7th instant, inquiring what steps you should take at the Porte with reference to the alleged cases of torture inflicted upon Armenian prisoners which have been reported to you; and I have to inform you that it will be sufficient that you should mention the report to the Turkish Government in any way that you may deem most desirable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 134.

The Archbishop of Canterbury to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 18.)

My Lord, *Lambeth Palace, London, July* 17, 1893.

IT is with regret that I have to put before your Lordship a complaint on the part of the Rev. W. H. Browne, a member of the English Mission to the Assyrian Christians

in Asiatic Turkey. But the oppression and injustice exercised by the local authorities is of so determined a character, that any representation of the present state of things would seem as essential a step in the cause of British interests generally as in furthering the objects of the Mission itself.

Mr. Browne writes from Qudshanis in the early part of the past month that for some time the Pasha (Mutessarif) of Julamerk has treated Mâr Shimûn, the Patriarch of the Assyrian (Nestorian) Christians, with "scant courtesy" and "contempt expressed in action," withholding his salary, and otherwise lowering his position and prestige. He provokes him by interference in the collection of episcopal dues, and refuses to allow his appointments of priests to take effect except in the case of nominees of his own. "Such interference in ecclesiastical matters by a Governor is," it is shown, "entirely new, and contrary to law." This functionary is, moreover, described as "an oppressor of the Christians, and quite unlike his three predecessors." The servants of his protégés are allowed publicly to beat and ill-use the inhabitants of Qudshanis, and one marked instance of his culpable callousness is cited in the fact that an old man (a centenarian), Malek David, whose beard had been pulled out and bare neck whipped by a zaptieh, was so pained and shamed at the treatment received that he drowned himself, the petition against his tormentor lying disregarded in the Pasha's escritoire.

It is possible that the nomination of a Vice-Consul at Mosul, if approved, may do something to mitigate the inconveniences and sufferings to which Christian communities are subjected in the Ottoman dominions of Asia. In the meantime, if it be found that a Governor is notoriously obnoxious, from tyranny or indifference, the Porte may be disposed to sanction his removal.

For himself, Mr. Browne asks only that he may be allowed the benefit of his Treaty rights, which the Mutessarif in question has not been ready to acknowledge. He would, in common with his fellow-workers in Kurdistan and the neighbouring country, move about freely without molestation or insult, a liberty which he does not now enjoy. "When I went to Gawar," he writes, "in the end of March, and sent my servant to ask the Pasha for a zaptieh (which I did not need, and only asked for out of politeness), the Pasha not only refused to send a zaptieh, but telegraphed to Gawar against me, as if a suspicious character, although he knew quite well who I was. . . . . ."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDW. CANTUAR.

No. 135.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 21.)

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June* 27, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith inclosed, duplicate copies of Mr. Vice-Consul Devey's despatch of the 21st June, reporting a rumour of the intended introduction of arms from Russia, destined for Armenian seditious objects in the Khinus district.

Mr. Fitzmaurice informs me that he has good grounds for believing that during the last couple of years the attempts of Russian Armenians to establish an organization of a revolutionary character in the Khinus district have been attended with a certain amount of success, and that these agitators have found several willing tools among the Armenians of this caza, which has suffered so much lately from maladministration and Kurdish raids.

Some confirmation of the above rumours is afforded by the fact that during my late journey through the same district I heard that an armed band of Russian Armenians had made their way into Khinus, and had had a brush with Kurds near the village of Kozlu, where one of the Armenians lost his life. The remainder of the band then dispersed, and are reported to have made their way into the Sassun district of the Bitlis Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.

Sir, *Van, June* 21, 1893.

I LATELY heard a rumour to the effect that a number of Berdan rifles, formerly used in the Russian army, were collected on the Russian frontier for distribution among Armenians for revolutionary objects.

The rifles were to be introduced to Khinus and sold to reliable individuals at the trifling cost of 40 piastres for a rifle with cartridges.

I do not imagine that much heed should be taken of such vague and improbable reports, but mention this particular one, as it is precisely similar to one that was spread at Erzeroum in December 1891.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 136.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 21.)

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June* 28, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows upon the condition of the districts traversed by me between Kharpût and Erzeroum, in the course of my recent journey :—

The state of the Caza of Palou, which belongs to the Diarbekir Vilayet, is not altogether satisfactory. During the last year or two there have been a considerable number of arrests on political charges, and there are now seven Armenians from the town of Palou in exile at Diarbekir.

From Palou to the Plain of Moush my road lay through a thinly-populated and mountainous country, where brigandage, exercised by some of the Kurdish mountaineers, is the main difficulty to be contended with by the authorities. I learned, however, that about eighteen Armenians, said to be suspected of treason, had recently been arrested in the Guindj district and taken to Bitlis for trial.

At Moush I found a new Mutessarif, Hassib Pasha, who has succeeded Ennis Pasha on the transfer of the latter to Mardin. Hassib Pasha is an elderly man, who has served for the greater part of his life in European Turkey, and, from his lack of energy and local experience, appears but ill-qualified to administer so troublesome and important a sandjak as that of Moush. The economic condition of the district appears to be going from bad to worse, partly owing to the failure of crops last year and the gloomy prospects of this year's harvest, and partly owing to the insecurity resulting from Kurdish lawlessness, which the authorities seem unwilling or powerless to curb, and to the uneasy feeling provoked by several incidents of recent occurrence in the neighbourhood.

The first of these was the sacking of the village of Avzot in the month of February last by the police and the Kurds of the surrounding villages, an exaggerated account of which reached Mr. Fitzmaurice at Erzeroum, and was reported by him, with reservations as to its accuracy, in his despatch of the 15th April. Although no such massacre as was at first reported took place at Avzot, the real story shows a condition of affairs which reflects no credit on the police authorities, and I shall make it the subject of a separate despatch correcting the impression conveyed by the first rumours.

After the affair at Avzot many of the villages around Moush were searched for arms, and the Armenian Bishop of Moush was arrested, it is believed, on a charge of being concerned in treasonable agitation against the Government in the Caza of Boulanik, which he had visited for the purpose of buying grain for the monastery of Surp Garabet, of which he is also Abbot.

His arrest has produced a painful impression among the Armenians of Moush, who are convinced of his innocence, and believe that the accusations against him have been trumped up by the police with a view to extortion and intimidation. It is reported that a police officer visited Boulanik for the purpose of collecting evidence against the Bishop, and succeeded in extracting no less than 580 liras from the villagers, some of those who refused to pay being arrested and taken to Bitlis.

The Kaimakam of Boulanik, Hashim Bey, the same who is referred to in my

despatch No. 53, Confidential, of the 8th October, 1892, complained of this officer's conduct to the Vali of Bitlis, and obtained the release of these prisoners, thereby appearing for the first time in the light of a protector to the Armenians under his administration.

Shortly before my arrival at Moush, *i.e.*, about the 10th or 12th June, much excitement was aroused by the capture in the Moush mountains of an Armenian outlaw, named Damadian, for whose apprehension a large reward was offered, and who has defied arrest for eighteen months past. Great importance is attached by the Government to this capture, which is expected to throw light upon the case of the Bishop of Moush, the latter being accused of having had communications with Damadian for seditious objects.

My impression is that the Armenians of the Moush plain and surrounding districts are too much crushed in spirit by former severities to be likely to join in any fresh seditious movement at present, but that attempts continue to be made, mainly by Russian-Armenian agitators, to keep the country in an unsettled state by the introduction of arms and the occasional dispatch of small bodies of armed men into those districts for the purpose of what may be described as political brigandage. Reasonable precautions on the part of the Government would suffice to keep such attempts in check, but unfortunately it is too often the case that they succeed in their main object, namely, the creation of an appearance of widespread disaffection, simply owing to the ill-judged and indiscriminate severity of the police and judicial authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 137.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 21.)

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June* 29, 1893.

WITH reference to Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch of the 15th April, I have the honour to report that, during my late visit to Moush, I was able to obtain further information as to the Avzot affair and the reported massacre of Armenians in that village.

I learned that the account of the origin of the affair given by Mr. Fitzmaurice is substantially accurate, an Armenian outlaw and the police sergeant who endeavoured to arrest him being killed, and the village being subsequently plundered by the police and by the Kurds of the neighbourhood. It is, however, not true that any of the villagers were killed, and no other lives were lost beyond the two above mentioned. I am informed that all the cattle and other portable property were carried off, and seventeen villagers arrested and taken to Bitlis. On complaint being made to Tahsin Pasha, the Vali of Bitlis, his Excellency ordered the stolen property to be returned, and all the cattle were recovered and restored to their owners, but it was found impossible to make restitution of the other missing valuables.

Shortly after, and in consequence of this affair, a police captain named Reshid Effendi was sent from Moush to search for arms in some of the surrounding villages. On his returning without having discovered any arms, he was, I am told, ordered to go a second time and not return until his search was successful. On this he actually forced the Armenian villagers to buy arms from their Kurdish neighbours in order that he might make a fictitious seizure, and he then brought them in triumph to Moush. When this scandalous case was represented to Tahsin Pasha his Excellency ordered that Reshid Effendi should be put upon his trial at Moush, but the prisoner made use of such threats that the witnesses, both Armenian and Kurdish, were afraid to appear, and the case broke down from want of evidence, Reshid Effendi being still in the discharge of his functions as if nothing had happened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 138.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 21.)

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Trebizond, June 30, 1893.*

I BEG to inclose herewith copy of a letter from Dr. Jewett, wherein he speaks of an improvement in his relations with the Vali of Sivas, the condemnation to death of from fifteen to twenty Armenian prisoners at Angora, including Thoumaian and Kayayan, on evidence presumably conclusive, the retention in office of such unscrupulous characters as Hosref Pasha, of the Gendarmerie, and Ibrahim Gerkmen Effendi, of the Police, the reported intimidation of Armenians by revolutionists from giving the Vali a public welcome at Marsovan, as well as the apprehension of violence imputed to his Excellency for deferring his visit to that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Consul Longworth, *Sivas, June 28, 1893.*

THANKS for your kind letter of the 26th ultimo. The Vali is away, and I have not had an opportunity to present your letter to him, and it may not be necessary. The Vali was extremely polite to me during Consul Graves' stay. I went as far as Kharput with Graves, and the Vali had left when I returned.

He told me recently that there were revolutionary teachers and students still in the Marsovan College. I asked him who they were, and he admitted he did not know; I fear he may create trouble there. It would be on a par with what he did at Van.

I was surprised to learn that Thoumaian and Kayayan and some fifteen or twenty others have been condemned to death. I had repeatedly been shown the so-called proofs against them, and they were not proofs at all.

The documentary evidence was connected with these men chiefly by the affidavits of certain prisoners who swore that certain fictitious names were the names of Thoumaian and Kayayan. Consul Graves questioned the men who gave the affidavits, and they admitted that they had no personal knowledge of Thoumaian, and had never seen him.

There are ugly reports about examination by torture, &c., but I do not know how true they are. The Vali regarded Mrs. Thoumaian's letters as about the most valuable proof of his guilt, but they are indicative of guilt only on the supposition that she uses the word "hospital" to mean revolutionary society, and that seems to me a supposition not warranted by the facts.

Mardiros, of Gemerek, gets fifteen years' imprisonment, on what ground I do not see. Up to the last moment Abeedeen Pasha and the Prosecutor-General assured Mr. Graves, Mr. Hoffman, Thoumaian's brother-in-law, and others that Thoumaian would be acquitted. Will we see a general pardon next?

It is rumoured that the Armenians of Amassia and Marsovan are preparing to do something desperate.

We are still under the protection of Hosref Pasha, Chief of the Gendarmerie of the Vilayet, whose past and recent record is so notoriously bad. It was reported to the United States' Legation and to the British Embassy, I think, that he was removed, but he is still in his old office.

Ibrahim Gerkmen, Chief of Police at Marsovan, was reported to be imprisoned; I am credibly informed that he has been made tax-collector of this district, and that in spite of (or in consequence of) the fact that I gave the Vali a list of bribes and other extortions he was guilty of wringing out of Christians, amounting to more than 37,000 piastres. It does not seem to me that the Marsovan incident can be regarded as happily settled so long as these men are honoured by the Turkish Government, and the protection of Christians rests in the hands of a man who has shown himself so unfit for the work.

Your last letter to me (registered) came open, but I think it was worn on the edge, not cut. A letter from Consul-General by same post was torn sufficiently to remove the contents.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. S. JEWETT.

P.S.—There is much suffering and want at Malatia in consequence of earthquakes. Graves will probably report on condition of the people. A message from Marsovan says the Armenian Society is reported to have posted a notice to the effect that no Armenians are to go out to meet the Vali when he comes there, on penalty of personal harm, and it is said that the Vali is hesitating and delaying his visit on this account. It is also said that there are two or three Russians in town there (Marsovan), which fact is supposed to signify something. Can't tell how true or valuable the information is. It is a fact that the Vali said he would be in Marsovan some days ago, and that for some reason his visit is delayed. He may get the idea that it is not safe for him to go there, and give up that part of his trip.

M. S. J.

No. 139.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 21.)

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, July 7, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your three telegrams respecting Thoumaian and Kayayan's release. Before the arrival of the last two telegrams I had already wired you as follows:—

"Professors left this morning under escort for Constantinople. Will arrive to-morrow."

Thoumaian and Kayayan were not released till yesterday morning, when they at once left by train for Constantinople. In accordance with your instructions I saw them, and inquired if I could do anything for them. I went to the station and saw them start on their journey to Constantinople. They were accompanied by two police officers. Thoumaian asks me to forward the inclosed letter to Mrs. Thoumaian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 140.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 21.)

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, July 10, 1893.*

IN penning the following lines, I may seem to be entering into the extreme, but as the subject has come to my notice several times during the recent trial, and also at other times, I am constrained to mention it.

In the evidence tendered by the prosecution in the recent trial, and also in the charges against the Armenians, the words "Selahleyalum" (Let us arm ourselves), "Illerri gidellem" (Let us advance), "Mouharrabé idellem" (Let us fight), were frequently mentioned, and the authorities had evidently fixed upon them as dangerous, and as being conducive and exciting to rebellion.

It is quite possible that these words have been frequently used by the Armenians in their church services and religious meetings. The source from which the words are taken will explain their frequent use.

I will take one instance as an illustration. In the collection of "Hymns Ancient and Modern" there is a well-known hymn beginning with the words "Onward, Christian soldiers." In the hymn-books used here by the Protestant Armenians this hymn is to be found. I have seen a literal Turkish translation of it, and as it reads in the Turkish language it breathes a martial spirit, and by the uneducated, or by those who may be able to comprehend its real meaning, may appear to be an exhortation to the people to arm themselves to fight against the common enemy; of course almost all Christians here look upon the Turk as a common enemy.

In a country like this, where social and religious differences are so intense and easily aroused, the use of this hymn in its literal translation by the Armenians may lead the Turks to take it in its literal sense, and I much doubt whether some of the Armenians themselves comprehend its meaning. When these hymn-books pass through the Turkish custom-house, the censor tears out the page containing this hymn. I have seen books so mutilated. Some of the Armenian pastors have managed to get hold of a translation of this hymn, and sometimes use it in their religious services.

In addition to the above, some of the most fiery-worded hymns out of the Moody and Sankey collection are to be found in the books used by the Armenians.

I will give an instance which may lead to the conclusion that hymns of this character may have had something to do with the recent troubles.

In the charges against Thoumaian it is mentioned that he some two years ago preached a revolutionary sermon in one of the Gregorian Armenian churches. On the outbreak last autumn of the Armenian affair, the authorities got hold of some of the adherents of the Gregorian Church, some of whom are antagonistic to Thoumaian, and they told the Turkish authorities that Thoumaian made use of strong language. It is quite probable that he may have taken some of these hymns as a theme of discussion, or quoted passages from them in a religious sense, and his hearers may have taken a political view of the words, and so construed them as to lead the authorities to believe that Thoumaian was a revolutionist.

This may seem to be a ludicrous view to take of a harmless hymn, but in a country where fanaticism is rampant, and ignorance and bigotry so prevalent, it is not to be wondered at that so trivial a matter may lead to trouble.

The Turks, always on the alert and always suspicious, are ready to take advantage of the slightest thing, no matter how harmless, that may give them some pretence for the exercise of repressive measures.

The compilers of the hymn-books which are used by the Protestant Armenians appear to have picked out the most objectionable ones for use in Turkey, especially some of those selected from the Moody and Sankey collection.

I think it would tend much to the well-being of their co-religionists if the compilers of these hymn-books would leave out those that could be construed in the sense I have above mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 141.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 313.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 10, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 291 of the 30th ultimo, transmitting documents from the Armenian prisoners at Angora, I have the honour to forward translation of a further paper giving some details of the trial. The statements contained therein add little to what is already known on the subject, though they give some particulars which I do not think have as yet been brought to your Lordship's notice. I do not know who is the writer of the paper, but I should presume the author is one of the lawyers who were retained for the defence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Further Report respecting the Trial of Armenian Prisoners at Angora.

(Translation.)

AS your Excellency is aware, in consequence of the placarding of certain notices in various places in the interior of Asia Minor some six months ago, nearly 600 persons, all of whom were Armenians, were arrested and imprisoned by the Ottoman Government.

Although it is generally reported that the real authors of these notices were another Committee, and that the Armenian Committee merely assisted to circulate and affix them in the interior of Asia Minor, yet the Turkish authorities, by means of the cruel

ill-treatment and tortures they inflicted, or cause to be inflicted, upon these prisoners, succeeded in obtaining evidence to the effect that the placards had not only been circulated, but also originally composed by the Armenians.

They subjected these persons to interrogatories and examinations which lasted for months, after which a portion of them, who were seen to be completely innocent or guilty only of trifling offences, were released in consequence of an amnesty which was proclaimed by Imperial Iradé on the occasion of the Easter festival. About eighty persons, said to be the principal instigators and ringleaders in the seditious and revolutionary movement then going on, were left in confinement, and these, by Imperial Iradé and a Decree of the Court of Cassation, were ordered to be publicly tried before the Criminal Section of the Angora Court of Appeal.

Although a trial in open Court in cases of this kind being somewhat of a novelty, it could not be expected with any degree of confidence that statements for the defence would be listened to and judgment given thereon with due regard to justice and impartiality; nevertheless, seeing that the Spiritual Heads of the various communities, the English Consul, and several other persons of note were specially invited to be present during the proceedings, hopes were entertained that at least in this instance the Government intended to give a fair hearing and pay proper attention to the wrongs and grievances of the population, and to seek a just and equitable solution of the question, so that some good might result out of this affair.

Accordingly the Court was entered with a feeling of gladness and a hope of being able to expose fully and freely the true state of the case.

The grounds upon which the "Chambre des Mises en Accusation" founded its act of accusation against these persons were that the imprisoned Armenians and others associated with them were in conspiracy to urge and incite the loyal Armenian subjects of the Sultan to armed rebellion, and that with this object they had committed robberies and assassinations in sundry places, had plundered the post, and had thereby collected money and weapons, and enrolled armed bands. They were accordingly charged under section 58 of the Penal Code, which imposes imprisonment for periods of from three to fifteen years, and one clause of it also confinement in a fortress for life.

The "Procureur Impérial" demanded their condemnation under this section. Advocates were appointed by the Court to protect the interests of the accused during the trial. On the other hand, some of those who had been originally arrested as being implicated in these matters, but subsequently amnestied and released, were now summoned for the purpose of being called as witnesses.

When the trial opened, the "Procureur Impérial," whose duty it should be to protect the public interest, without heeding or paying the slightest attention to the irregularities in procedure which the prisoners or their counsel brought to his notice, or to the tortures and improper treatment of all sorts to which they had been subjected, acted simply and solely as the Representative of the Government, and continually spoke in such a manner as to exasperate the Mussulman populace against the Christians.

The hearing of the witnesses before mentioned, who were called ostensibly in the public interest, commenced on the fifth day of the trial. They naturally departed from the depositions which they had made during the preliminary investigation for the sole purpose of escaping from the tortures and ill-treatment to which they were subjected, and of the contents of which they were even ignorant themselves, and narrated the true state of the case. The "Procureur" thereupon demanded an inquiry on the ground that they had altered their depositions, and consequently were committing perjury; but upon the reply of counsel for the defence the Court, after deliberation, decided that the depositions taken before the "Juge d'Instruction" could not for numerous reasons be considered free from error or morally convincing, that their evidence, given upon oath in open Court, must be considered trustworthy, and that, as regards the alterations in their statements, they could not be treated as having borne false witness.

Nevertheless, that all this was nothing more than an intentional and prearranged piece of acting, designed to deceive the public and the European Powers, became as clear as daylight from the fact that the prisoners were immediately interrupted and forbidden to speak when they attempted to make important and thoroughly relevant statements concerning their real intentions and objects in these matters, from the endeavours of the Court to give to everything a colour corresponding to their own preconceived notions and desires, and from their other extraordinary infractions of established procedure, so that prisoners and spectators alike could not fail to be plunged in amazement.

And yet, why should one be astonished at this? Has the course pursued by the Ottoman Government been forgotten in the recent instance of the notorious Moussa Bey's

trial, conducted in the Criminal Court of Stamboul itself in the presence of the Representatives of the Powers?

In truth, the position of the unfortunate prisoners was pitiful to see. Each was striving to establish the innocence of his own section, with anxious cries like a flock of sheep in a slaughter-house. Throwing themselves upon the sense of justice of the President, they began to relate, in a manner calculated to secure them both attention and compassion, some how they had been compelled to unjustly accuse both themselves and others, according to instructions previously formulated by the Government, in order to escape from the most cruel ill-usage and tortures that they were suffering; others that they had no knowledge whatever of any such concerns; others, again, that they were the faithful subjects of the Sultan and true children of their fatherland, desiring only the full and universal application of the administrative reforms, and absolutely incapable of even conceiving the things attributed to them, and, further, that the unique object of their association was (seeing that they could no longer support the oppression and ill-treatment to which the Government officials openly and with complete impunity subjected the suffering population, and the injustice and corruption of which those officials were guilty, and that the security of the life, property, and honour of the people was thereby destroyed in every part of the country) merely to bring their grievances to the knowledge of the Sovereign, with a view to removing and putting an end to such oppression, injustice, and insecurity.

However, their statements and appeals to this effect were immediately interrupted and silenced by the President, either on his own initiative or at the demand of the "Procureur Impérial." The hearing of evidence having been continued to the end in this astounding fashion, the turn then came for the prisoners or their counsel to address the Court in their defence, but the speeches which counsel endeavoured to deliver, explaining and elucidating the true objects of the accused, in accordance with the requirements of law, reason, and logic, and supported by legal proofs and strong moral arguments, were immediately interrupted and forbidden. In the same way a hearing was categorically refused to the speeches which the unfortunate prisoners attempted to deliver, on the same lines and in accordance with their legal rights, in the endeavour to establish their innocence. In short, the Court refused to depart in the very least from its preconceived views of the case, and, finally, upon the astounding announcement being made by the President that "the hearing is now closed," the Court retired to the Deliberation Chamber to consider its verdict.

On the Christian members of the Court expressing an opinion in favour of acquitting a number of innocent persons, in accordance with the evidence, the President employed the most violent language towards them, telling them that they must vote exclusively for condemnation, or that if they failed to do so other action should be taken against them, in such a way that the noise of this discussion was audible even in the Chamber of Audience.

Finally, on account of this disagreement, it was announced that Judgment could not be pronounced on that day, and the prisoners were taken back to gaol. Two days later, namely, on Monday, the 31st May (12th June), the prisoners, fifty-six in all, were assembled in the Chamber of Audience for communication of the sentence of the Court, and Judgment was delivered, acquitting fourteen of them, and declaring the rest guilty, some by a unanimous verdict and some by the verdict of a majority. The "Procureur Impérial" thereupon demanded the abandonment of section 58 of the Penal Code, the application of which had been recommended by the "Chambre des Mises en Accusation," and the application in its stead of the penalties prescribed by the supplementary clause of section 54. The Court therefore again rose, and after an hour's deliberation on this point, sentence was finally pronounced in accordance with the "Procureur's" demand and the provisions of the supplementary clause above cited. By it ten of the prisoners (one of them being a woman) were condemned to seven years', eight others to ten, and six to fifteen years' imprisonment, whilst seventeen persons, one being a priest and two others preachers [professors?], were sentenced to death.

Reupen Djevahirdjian, who had been amongst the accused, but from an early period in the proceedings had been freed from arrest and employed as a spy, was ordered to be kept for two years under police surveillance. Sentence having been pronounced, the prisoners were reconducted to gaol, and, subsequently, those who were under sentence of death were put in chains.

One of the prisoners, named Keropé Papazian (No. 13 in list of persons subjected to torture), who had been particularly free in the expression of his views, disappeared from the prison one night shortly before the commencement of the trial, *i.e.*, after the preliminary examination of the accused had been concluded. It subsequently transpired

from a Memorandum which was read at the commencement of the public trial, that, being supposed to have been affected by insanity, he had been sent to the asylum at Constantinople for medical treatment.

More than thirty other Armenians, who had been arrested in various localities and brought to Angora and imprisoned there, were expecting to be brought to trial in their turn.

This is the simple truth about the matter. It is openly acknowledged by those who were present during the hearing of the case, and even by the serious and open-minded amongst the Mussulmans, that the judicial proceedings and the trial itself were entirely irregular and unconscientious, and the penalties imposed were altogether too severe and far beyond the limits of justice. Moreover, the Christian members of the Court have made excuses for themselves in numerous places, admitting and avowing that they returned a verdict of guilty against a number of innocent persons, not in accordance with their conscientious belief, but solely at the reiterated orders and under the compulsion of the Government.

On these grounds, therefore, we inclose, for your Excellency's information, a list showing the names of the persons accused, and of those actually condemned, together with a copy of the defence which should have been delivered by the accused in the course of the trial, but which was suppressed and not allowed to be heard; and also a detailed account of the various instances of ill-usage and torture inflicted upon the Armenians by Government officials and by the Mussulman population; and we request and pray, with deep solicitude, that you will graciously and compassionately deign to adopt efficient means of freeing and delivering us from this extreme condition of despair.

June 8 (20), 1893.

No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 317.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 11, 1893.

M. AVAKIAN, the counsel of Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan, in company with Dr. Greene, called on me this morning, and as M. Avakian was well conversant with the details of the recent trial at Angora, I went through a nominal list in my possession of the condemned prisoners.

I have the honour to inclose copy of this list.

In the first category there were seventeen condemned to death. Of these seventeen, two, M. Thoumaian and M. Kayayan, have already been pardoned and liberated; five were condemned for murder; seven confessed their participation in the secret movement, thus leaving three cases to be dealt with. One of these three cases, that of Bedros Oglou Misak, was a doubtful one, and M. Avakian was unable to give me any detailed information in regard to it. There were then left the cases of Tanel, an Armenian priest, and Agob Bachlaf, a merchant of Gemrek.

Tanel was arrested on the ground that certain members of secret societies were accustomed to meet in the monastery of which he was head. It was in this monastery that Andon Ruchtoni was captured. Tanel declared that the monastery was a place of rest for any travellers who chose to seek its hospitality; that he was unaware of the callings and characters of his guests; and that he had absolutely nothing to do with any revolutionary movement.

Agob Bachlaf is a well-to-do merchant of Gemrek, and the charges against him were that he was seen in company with some Armenians who were afterwards found to be participators in the recent movement; and also that he was in relations with Andon Ruchtoni. Bachlaf was supposed to be also the man who received the seditious placards which were to be posted up at Gemrek, but no proof, beyond suspicion, appears to have been brought forward to implicate him in this respect.

Bachlaf denied all complicity with the movement, and asked to call witnesses to prove his innocence, and his loyal and peaceable disposition, but the Court did not consider it necessary that he should do so, and condemned him to death.

Among the six persons condemned to fifteen years' penal servitude, there were three cases to which M. Avakian desired to call attention, namely, those of Protestant Oglou Madros, Papagian Mighirditch, and Karagouz Oglou Artin.

Madros is the Protestant pastor at Gemrek, and is charged with having had knowledge of the seditious placards, and for not having thereupon informed the autho-

rities. His defence was that an Armenian brought him a packet in which were documents in Osmanli Turk, which the bearer could not read. Madros, on examining them, discovered their purport, and strongly recommended the bearer to destroy them and have nothing to do with them. He had not informed the authorities because he found his life would be taken by the secret societies as an informer.

Papagian is a shop-keeper at Marsovan, and is distantly related to another Papagian who was among the accused, and who is alleged to have become insane, and is said to be lodged in a lunatic asylum in Constantinople. Papagian had a general shop, and sold amongst other articles powder and shot; he was in business relations with his relative, who also kept a shop in Kaisarieh. Several letters were found with the insane Papagian from the condemned prisoner, which, as they treated of interchange of articles, and probably shot and powder among them, were considered very suspicious by the authorities. Moreover, one of the prisoners had stated at his first interrogatory that the insane Papagian had given him an introductory letter to his relative in Marsovan when he proceeded to that place to take part in the secret meeting in September of last year, and that the Marsovan Papagian had shown him the house in which the meeting was to be held. This witness stated in the Court at Angora that his first deposition had been given under beatings, and that Papagian was not the man who pointed out the house to him.

Karagenz Oglou Avtin had, on his first interrogatory, confessed, under beatings, that he had put up some of the seditious placards. He subsequently denied this. The witnesses who had stated that they had seen him do so also denied their first depositions, which they said they had made under compulsion.

With regard to the eight prisoners in the third category, or those sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, M. Avakian was unable to give me any particulars, though he could say generally that most, if not all of them, had confessed, under compulsion, at their first interrogatory, to complicity in the recent movement, which confession they withdrew before the Angora Tribunal.

Among the ten individuals condemned to seven years' imprisonment, M. Avakian drew my attention to three cases, namely, those of the woman Surpuk, or Serpik, Arsen, the lawyer, and Chavak, or Shavarsh, the schoolmaster.

Serpik was charged with having lodged Andon Ruchtoni, and with having posted up one of the seditious placards. She explained that she did take in Ruchtoni as a lodger at £ T. 5 a-month, but was unaware of his pursuits. She admitted that Ruchtoni had given her a placard to post up, and that she had done so.

Arsen is said to be a very respectable lawyer at Tellas, a suburb of Kaisarieh. His name has been found on a list of what were supposed to be the names of the members of the secret societies. Arsen said he had nothing whatever to do with any revolutionary movement, that Ruchtoni had asked him to join a secret society, but that he had positively declined. Ruchtoni confirmed this statement.

Shavarsh admitted that Ruchtoni had lodged at his house in Tellas, but that he was quite unaware of Ruchtoni's pursuits when he accepted him as a lodger.

So soon as he learnt the business in which Ruchtoni was engaged he requested him to leave his house, which Ruchtoni did, but went to the widow Serpik, and subsequently to the monastery where he was captured.

Shavarsh denied all complicity in any revolutionary movement.

I have given your Lordship as accurately as I can the statements made to me by M. Avakian, without any comments of my own, so that your Lordship will be able to judge how the matter stands.

It would be of interest, and indeed of assistance in forming a definite opinion on the complicity or innocence of the accused, to obtain a copy of the "Tam," or decisions, of the Tribunal at Angora, in which I am told the grounds of each individual sentence are set forth. I do not know if your Lordship would desire me to make an application to that effect.

In any case your Lordship will observe that the sentences are exceedingly severe in comparison with the charges, even if the latter had been fully proved, and from what is now known of the mode in which the trial was conducted there appears no doubt that the merest suspicion was considered sufficient to condemn men who were allowed little or no facilities of defence.

I need not say that it would be desirable to prevent the name of M. Avakian from appearing in any published paper, as he is a lawyer still practising in the Ottoman dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—I should add that the Foreign Minister has informed me that the "Cour de Cassation" confirmed the sentences on all the prisoners. I am taking every opportunity of urging the Ottoman Government to mitigate the sentences, if not to pardon some of the prisoners. I am taking this action privately and unofficially, pending further instructions from your Lordship.

A. N.

Inclosure in No. 142.

List of Prisoners condemned.

Condemned to Death.

Andón Ruchtoni	(confessed to complicity)	..	..			
Zebidelki Jan Agob	"	"	..	..		
Aludjajan Carabet	"	"	..	..		
Dahmezian Parsik	"	"	..	..		
Kertman Oglou Kazo	"	"	..	..		
Kezizian Ishak	"	"	..	..		
Zivayan Mardiros	"	"	..	..		
Takoub Oglou Panos	(condemned for murder)		..	..		
Achdgi Parsik Oglou	"	"	..	..	..	.. 17
Kizir Toros Oglou	"	"	..	..		
Ghoroli Toros	"	"	..	..		
Arzutman Oglou Ohannes	"	"	..	..		
Tanel (Armenian priest)	..	..	..	..		
Agob Bachlof ..	..	..	..	..		
Bedros Oglou Misak ..	..	..	..	..		
Thomasian Garabet (dead)	..	..	..	..		
Kayayan Ohannes ..	..	..	..	..		

Papagian Kiropen, who was to have been condemned to death, went mad, and was sent to Constantinople.

Condemned to Fifteen Years' Hard Labour.

Takadgian Agob ..	..	..	..	..		
Protestant Oglou Madros	(Protestant clergyman)		..	..		
Papazian Mighirditch ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 6
Karagenz Oglou Artin ..	..	..	..	..		
Vartuk Oglou Kapril ..	..	..	..	..		
Ghoroli Carabet ..	..	..	..	..		

Condemned to Ten Years' Imprisonment.

Solobyan Agob ..	..	..	..	..		
Boyadjian Stepan ..	..	..	..	..		
Kezezian Sinkerin ..	..	..	..	..		
Unun Oglou Manas ..	..	..	..	..		
Devletyan Agob ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 8
Wartabedgian Mihran ..	..	..	..	..		
Kalubdgi Monchon ..	..	..	..	..		
Semir Oglou Artin ..	..	..	..	..		

Condemned to Seven Years.

Surpuk (woman) ..	..	..	..	..		
Arabadgi Ohannes ..	..	..	..	..		
Kurakila Oglou Ohannes	..	..	..	..		
Porsi Oglou Tane ..	..	..	..	..		
Arsen (lawyer) ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 10
Orhoudgian Hadjadour	..	..	..	..		
Chavak (Shavarsh), (schoolmaster)			..	..		
Uzun Oglou Kutos ..	..	..	..	..		
Aduryan Kazaros ..	..	..	..	..		
Midé Oglou Serkis ..	..	..	..	..		
Zevarkiejian Roupen, seven years under police surveillance				..	..	.. 1
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 42

No. 143.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received July 21.*)

(No. 333.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 14, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of a letter and despatch which I received from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton on the subject of the Armenian prisoners at Angora.

I have written to Mr. Newton requesting him to call the attention of Abeddin Pasha to the treatment of the prisoners, and to urge upon his Excellency that humane treatment should be accorded them, and that political prisoners should not be confined in company with common criminals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)

Dear Sir, *Angora, July 8, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my private letter of yesterday's date.

I have to inform you that an attempt was made by some prisoners a few nights ago to escape from the local prison.

As there are two versions of the affair, I give them both; I am rather inclined to believe the first, as I have obtained it from two different sources.

During the night of Tuesday last, the 4th instant, one of the warders found two prisoners (Turks) had dug a hole underneath the foundation of the prison wall with the object of escaping. The warder found the two men in the hole; he got them out and took them into a room and gave them a sound beating, and made them promise to say that the Armenian prisoners had told them to do this, and that they would pay them. The warders then, with the help of some of the Turkish prisoners, gave the Armenians a sound beating and punished them somewhat severely, and hard measures are now being meted out to the poor fellows.

I obtained the above version from an Armenian who was released the day following the affair, but is not connected with the other Armenians, and also from Thoumaian, who overheard the conversation between the warder and the two Turks.

The Government version is that some of the Armenian prisoners had themselves dug the hole, but were not caught in the act.

The Armenians who had been imprisoned separately are now mixed with the other Turkish prisoners. Some of the latter are criminals of the deepest dye, whilst some of the Armenians are men of education, and held previous to this revolutionary affair a respectable social position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, July 10, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that there are some thirty-five Armenians lodged in the local prison awaiting their trial. These men are charged with participating in the Armenian movement, but did not arrive here in time to take their trial with the others. They are from the districts of Yuzgat and Cæsarea, and from the villages in the Sivas Vilayet.

I shall keep you currently informed of all that transpires respecting these prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 144.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received July 25.*)

(No. 346.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 25, 1893, 11·20 A.M.*

AT my interview with the Grand Vizier, his Highness, of his own accord, referred to the rumoured ill-treatment of Armenians. I replied that I had only seen the most ghastly tale reported in the papers, and it was almost too horrible to believe. There were, however, other cases of ill-treatment, concerning which I would write privately to his Highness. I do not think that any practical benefit will ensue from doing so, but I think it would be a wise course to pursue, of course without giving any names.

He had no news to give me in reply to my questions about the Angora prisoners. I will not take any real action at the Porte as to prisoners till I have received your Lordship's instructions on my despatch No. 317.

No. 145.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 189.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 26, 1893.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 317 of the 11th instant, containing the information you have obtained from M. Avakian, counsel for Messrs. Thoumaian and Kayayan, relative to the other Armenian prisoners condemned by the Court at Angora. I have to instruct you to endeavour to obtain a copy of the decisions of that Court, and to pay particular attention in the meantime to the cases of Tanel and Agop Bachlaf, described to you by M. Avakian.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 146.

Memorandum communicated by Mrs. Thoumayan, July 27, 1893.

THERE are now in the Angora prison 63 prisoners, 39 of whom are condemned and 24 are waiting for their trial since some months.

The 39 condemned prisoners are divided in four classes, in point of view of the punishment appointed to them:—

First, 15 more persons condemned to death.
Second, 6 persons condemned to 15 years of imprisonment.
Third, 8 persons condemned to 10 years of imprisonment.
Fourth, 10 persons condemned to 7 years of imprisonment.

In the point of view of the accusations brought against them, they can be divided in this manner:—

First, 9 persons accused as revolutionary leaders.
Second, 6 persons accused as agents and murderers.
Third, 24 persons accused as means of spreading revolution.

But in spite of all these accusations the Court could not find any *positive proof* of their being revolutionary men and agents.

It cannot be denied that some kind of Society was existing, and that some of them have confessed to be members of it. The Court and the Government called it revolutionary, but all the members unanimously denied it to be revolutionary. They regard their Society as a *Reformatory* Society, acting for the good of the country. They declared before the Court that their intention was to organize a unity among the people without any distinction of nationality or religion, in order to protest unanimously against all kinds of injustice and oppressions brought upon the people by the officers of the Turkish Government. They were fully prepared to prove by numerous facts of every day each point of their complaints, but the Court did not allow them to speak, and continued to regard them as seditious men. All this could be proved by the papers sent from Angora prison to the British Embassy at Constantinople. Those papers consist of a full report of the trial, of a long list of tortures, and of latest facts of Turkish oppressions upon the Christians, and of some speeches of defence of the

prisoners that were not allowed to be read. In order to give you some information of the accusations brought against each individual and their answers, we think well to give you the following report:—

I.—*First Serie, those condemned to Death.*

(A.) *The so-called "Leaders."*

1. *Andon Rushdoony.* Accused to be the chief leader of the so-called Revolutionary Society in Cesarea and vicinity, but he always denied it. He only confessed that his intention was to organize people to present their complaints to the Government on one side, and to Christians on the other. No *revolutionary* act was found against him.
2. *Hagop Jebidelikian*, merchant.
3. *Garabed Alajajian*, merchant.
4. *Parsekh Deukmejian*, merchant.
5. *Hagop Bahtavoony*, retired teacher.
6. *Garo Kertmenian*, teacher.
7. *Murdiros Jivanian*, graduate of Marsovan College.
8. *Daniel Vartabed*, a monk.

These are all from Cesarea and vicinity. They are accused to have seen and entered in relation with the above-mentioned *Rushdoony.*

9. *Misak Kechejian*, teacher, accused one of the leaders in Yuzgat. He was so much tortured that, after all, he was obliged to confess it in order to escape worse treatment.

(B.) *So-called "Murderers."*

10. *Horhannes Arzoomanian.* Accused to have killed a Turk. The Turks hired some false witnesses to prove it, and so condemned him to death, though the mother of the *murdered Turk*, among others, was fully convinced that the Turks had been authors of killing her son. For this reason the *Turks* killed her also, to hinder her proving the matter before the Court. At the sham trial the Court refused to examine this case, as also several other cases.

11. *Toros Zarvogian* is accused also to be murderer, and to have robbed the Turkish mail. For the first accusation he objects that the confession got out of him at Siras was forced. For the second he says, and proves, that at the time he was in another place (*alibi*). Besides that, some Turks had already been condemned for having robbed the same mail.

12. *Panos Yakoobian*;
13. *Gulbenk Hamalian*;
14. *Misak Yazujian*;
15. *Mehroojan Kanabakian*;

are also accused to be murderers without any positive proof.

II.—*Second Serie, those condemned to Imprisonment.*

They are twenty-four in number It is quite evident that they had never any part in the reformatory efforts; but for the Turks it is enough that one has to acknowledge having once seen by chance a reformatory paper, or a member of the reformatory movement, and so on, to be regarded as guilty and condemned. The accusations brought against them are very weak. For instance, we can mention some cases:—

Murdiros Kaloosdian, pastor of Gemerek. This man, having excited the envy of the Turks by his widespread Christian influence, and by having started a Young Men's Christian Association in his parish, is condemned to fifteen years of imprisonment for having seen the placards before they were posted, and though he advised people *not to post them*, but, on the contrary, to burn them, the Turks partly burnt his church and arrested him.

Arsen Kalfaïan, a lawyer, was condemned to seven years of imprisonment because he had *seen* Andon Rushdoony once or twice, though he refused to accept his ideas.

Shavarsh Yesaïan, a teacher, was condemned also to seven years of imprisonment because Andon Rushdoony had for some time boarded and lodged in his house.

Turpooky, a poor widow, is condemned to seven years of imprisonment because she also gave board and lodging to Andon Rushdoony in her house; nothing else is proved against her.

Hovhannes Dirazoolan, a cart-driver, is condemned to ten years of imprisonment on accusation that he carried once or twice some forbidden letters and papers, though he objected that he could not *see* what were in the papers, as they were folded and shut. This poor man was so much tortured that, though in strong health before, he lost his health, and his life is in danger.

Mugurdich Papazian is condemned to fifteen years because, three years ago, he had sold some cartouches ("cartridges") in his shop, like others. This is not clearly forbidden by the Turks, but they often use this opportunity to bring troubles upon the Christians.

Lazarus Adoorian is condemned to seven years for having ordered one revolver to protect him on dangerous journeys.

Kaloost Uzoonian, Serkis Miditian, Khachadoor Oghlakhjian. These three men were forced in Marsovan by Husref Pasha personally, *in our presence*, to sign a paper saying that they have posted the placards, which they did not, and during the trial at Angora two true witnesses called by the Government himself brought full evidence in their favour. Still they are condemned to seven years.

Senekerim Kebabjian is condemned to ten years, perhaps because he is a graduate of our college; we know no other reason.

As for the remaining 13 out of the 24, they are all accused and condemned for such trifles; the names are the following:—

Harootune Karogeuzian, Garabed Gurunlian, Kabriel Vartoogian, Hagop Tabakian, condemned to fifteen years of imprisonment.

Mooshoo Chorlootian, Mihran Vartanian, Hagop Deuletian, Stepan Boyajian, Mamas Unanian, Harootune Simokian, Hagop Cholakian, condemned to ten years of imprisonment.

Daniel Khamparsegian, Hachannes Karakulakian, condemned to seven years of imprisonment.

III.—*Third Serie, those not yet tried.*

Besides these 39 persons already condemned, there are in Angora prison 24 other Armenian Christians politically accused (A), 8 *of which* have been recognized *innocent*, and have several times received the promise that they will be soon released, but in spite of that are still kept in prison since several months (B); and the remaining 16 are waiting since months for their trial. *Dikran Gulbengian*, graduate of Marsovan College, where he gave great satisfaction; some years ago hearing of the reformatory movement among the Armenians, he simply inquired about it, then let the matter drop, but this inquiry forms an accusation by the Turks. Another point rose a suspicion as follows: In his correspondence with his brother about their trade he had to use some English and French sentences mixed with Armenian in asking him to keep their commercial secrets. This was sufficient to form a heavy charge, to which was added the fact that he is the Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association in Samsoon. This accusation will culminate in his condemnation if no foreign intervention is brought to bear on the case.

Three persons from Maden, though it is proved that the placards were posted in Maden *by Greeks* to injure the Armenians; however, these three Armenians are imprisoned. *Twelve other Armenians* are imprisoned, four of whom were found on the road armed, for the safety of their lives and of the goods which they carried; the remaining eight are accused of having received them in their houses.

Important.—The pardon granted at Easter, under a promise to the British Foreign Office, was to let go any Armenian Christian prisoner *except* the *political leaders* and murderers. This promise has not been thoroughly carried out up to this time, as the forty-eight persons forming the IInd and IIIrd series above mentioned have never been accused even of being political *leaders* and *murderers*. At Easter time it happened that a good many Armenian prisoners who had been charged of accusations *worse these* were released, showing thus how arbitrary things go in Turkey. Would not the British Foreign Office take this attitude *demanding* the release of these men as already pardoned by the Sultan at Easter?

The before-mentioned Angora case is only *one in many*. Many towns and places are the scenes of such injustices. There are prisoners in Songoorlou, Maden, Choroom, Yuzgat, Aleppo, Van, Moush, &c., which are sometimes often worse off even *when there are no British Consuls residing there*. For instance, the Cesarea tortures were much worse than those executed at Angora. The *Governor* of Cesarea

was even decorated for having invented some new diabolical tortures against the Christians.

We are sorry to have to say that the foreign Consuls themselves are often deceived by the Turks, and that it is not without example that *the Turks bribe them to be silent*, till the Foreign Office which they represent puts pressure on them. As for Mr. Nowbery, Secretary of the American Legation, his wife was decorated for "his good services rendered to the Turkish Government."

Two more cases:—

Kevope Papazian, one of the boldest in his defence, decided to put before the whole Court at the coming trial the truth of the whole Armenian case. Thus the Angora Government, afraid of him, imagined to send two doctors to his dungeon with the special instruction to report him to be mad. This was well obeyed to, and the man was taken to Constantinople by a special captain at night handcuffed, and in a slow cart (not in the train, to avoid his being found out not to be insane and inquired after). He arrived at Constantinople. Word has been sent by the Christians to the British Embassy at Constantinople to find him, but in vain up to this day. *He has disappeared.*

Choroom.—In this town there are five Armenians imprisoned from the beginning till to-day without any accusation or any trial, just for the pleasure of the Turks to have them there. Thus we are obliged to imagine pretexts; they could be the following: Perhaps because these men are, generally speaking, the best and most popular of the few Armenian Christians there. In vain those poor prisoners and their friends appealed constantly by telegrams to the Vali, to Constantinople, begging that they be released, or their trial begun. There they remain in the depths of misery.

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No. 147.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 28, 1893, 10·20 A.M.*

I AM informed, but not on the best authority, that sentence of death will be carried out in the case of the five Armenians condemned for murder, while in all other cases the sentences will be mitigated. I will inquire further into the truth of this, and also how far the sentences will be mitigated.

The Porte is, I am told, occupied in preparing for publication translations of the decisions of the Tribunal.

No. 148.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 192.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 28, 1893.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 383 of the 14th, with inclosures from Vice-Consul Newton relative to the treatment to which the Armenian prisoners at Angora are subjected, and I approve your having instructed Mr. Newton to make a representation on the subject to Aheddin Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 149.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 30, 1893, 10·30 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 150, Said Pasha informs me that the Sultan has decided on the following mitigations of the sentences pronounced at Angora:—

Sentences of death commuted to eight years' hard labour; sentences of fifteen years' imprisonment reduced to six years; while those condemned to ten years' imprisonment will be let off with four, and those to seven years with three.

His Majesty has not commuted the sentences of death in the case of the five condemned for murder.

No. 150.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August 2, 1893.*

WHAT are the actual sentences passed on Mardiros Koloustran, of Gemrek, a graduate of the American Theological School, and of Mardiros Djivanian, a graduate of Marsovan College? Dr. Herrick is greatly concerned respecting the fate of these two Angora prisoners, the latter of whom, he says, was sentenced to death.

No. 151.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, August 2, 1893, 10·40 A.M.*

IN an interview with the Grand Vizier yesterday, His Highness asked me whether an excellent impression would not be produced in England by the mitigation of the Armenian sentences.

I was very reserved in replying, but I told him that I had my doubts. I added that in two cases at least—those of Tanel and Bachlaf—even eight years appeared excessive. His Highness begged me, before forming an opinion, to await communication of the *procès-verbaux*.

With regard to the cases of ill-treatment, he declared that they were impossible, but I maintained that my information was accurate. He promised that a searching inquiry should be made.

No. 152.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 3, 1893, 11·30 A.M.*

THE cases referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 69 at present stand as follows:—

Mardiros Koloustran is sentenced to six years' detention in a fortress, Mavdiros Djivanian to eight years' hard labour.

The latter, who was originally condemned to death, confessed to having been a member of a Secret Society.

No. 153.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 340.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation by Mr. Lamb of a Turkish document, which was forwarded to me from Angora, giving details of ill-treatment

on the part of zaptiehs and others on the inhabitants of the village of Efkéré, in the Kaisarieh district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Document forwarded from Angora.

(Translation.)

ABOUT 8 o'clock on the night of Saturday, the 9th (21st) January, 1893, some eighty officials and zaptiehs from Kaisarieh, accompanied by over 300 Bashi-Bazouks drawn from the populace of Kaisarieh and Tellas, and all armed with Martinis and other weapons, entered our village of Efkéré, and, by order of the Mutessarif, proceeded to arrest the merchant Meghirditch Effendi Karakehiyian and Mardiros Djivanian, after which they committed in the village the lawless acts set forth below.

The officials and zaptiehs, with the greater part of the Bashi-Bazouks, went to the house of Mardiros Effendi Kalaïdjian, where they called for all the drink they wanted, and held him by the head while they searched every corner of his dwelling, beat him with the butt-ends of their rifles, and finally shut him up in another house.

After that they swarmed all over the village, where, on indications given them by our Mahommedan fellow-villagers, such as the Sergherde Tcherkess Hamza, Lutfullah, Hadji Effendi-oghlou Shakir and Shehreddin, Ali Bey, Nouh, Ali Effendizadé Nouri, Imam-oghlou Ismaïl, Dervish Effendi, Hashim, and Djin Ali, and on pretence of searching for compromising documents, they entered seventy or eighty Christian houses armed with clubs, savagely beating both men and women, taking and drinking all the liquor they could find, and, not content with that, perpetrating the most shameful outrages on males and females alike, and plundering them of their money and effects. Moreover, they threatened them with even worse ill-treatment if they ventured on informing any one of their lawless conduct. Many of these luckless people, terrified by their violence and their menaces, fell ill and took to their beds.

The owners of the houses, from the terror caused by these acts of violence, by the ill-treatment and menaces they received, did not venture on making representations to any official authority, but contented themselves with making statements and confession to our clergy.

Not content with that, the zaptiehs and Bashi-Bazouks dragged a number of inoffensive people out of the houses, beat them severely, and subjected them to ignominious and shameful treatment. They took forty of them and confined them in the houses of Dervish and Ahmed Beys, where they used language insulting to their religion and faith, and to the Holy Cross. They broke the teeth of some, wounding their mouth and lips, and others they manacled and subjected to various ill-treatments.

As the Metropolitan of the neighbouring Greek monastery of Yanar Tash was passing through our village for the purpose of celebrating a marriage at the village of Kesse they struck him and pulled him off his horse, made fun of his hair and beard, and teazed and insulted him in various ways, until the unfortunate man, finding no other means of extricating himself from their barbarous clutches, declared that he belonged to the Greek Church, whereupon, calling him a dog, with shouts of "Yah, dog! black dog!" they left him in sorry plight.

This sort of thing lasted from 8 o'clock that night until 10 o'clock next morning, when they sent word to the Mussulmans of the neighbouring village that they were going to exterminate all the Christians and plunder their property. These people roamed about the village, armed and carrying sacks in their hands, taking eatables and drinkables from the houses until the unfortunate Christians had no other resource than to bar their doors and windows and make prisoners of themselves. If any one was obliged to go out they immediately seized him, and subjected him to every sort of ill-treatment. They forced some of the shopkeepers to open their shops, and took their goods without payment. This state of affairs lasted for twenty-five days.

At about 10 o'clock on the same day they arrested eight persons from our village, and conveyed them to Kaisarieh. On the following day some more zaptiehs and officials came, and, together with the Bashi-Bazouks of our village, they arrested two persons unknown to us at a place outside the village.

After the return of the officials and zaptiehs and Bashi-Bazouks, some of the Mussulman villagers, such as the Circassian Hamza, Lutfullah, Shehreddin, Ali Bey's son, Nouh, Hashim, Imam-oghlou Ismaïl, Shefket, Nourri, Djin Ali and Kizildjinli Hussein, together with Mehmed and Towfik Effendi, from the village of Esbadin, and other persons, each with a rifle and a club in his hands, went about the streets beating all the Christians they met. They also proceeded to the house of Kirkor Agha Arakélian, one of the village notables and merchants, obtaining admission by threats and violence, and scarced the whole house on the pretext of looking for rifles and escaped prisoners. This man's daughter fell so ill from terror, that she is still confined to her bed.

These persons entered about thirty houses in the same manner, either robbing and plundering or committing outrages on the honour of the inmates. Thirty householders, who had been thus maltreated, made written statements as to the ill-usage they had been subjected to, and submitted them to the clergy. The originals of these statements are in our possession, copies being subjoined, to wit:—

No. 1. About 8 or 9 o'clock at night our fellow-villagers, Shakir and Shehreddin, Tcherkess Hamza and Djin Ali, accompanied by a number of zaptiehs, compelled me by force to open my door, and entered my house, saying, "Tell us where your husband is." They dragged me from wall to wall and got me down into the stable, where they violated me. They took from my house a large quantity of grain and other property. I remained all night in the stable in a fainting condition, and next morning was rescued by the neighbours and carried to my bed. Subsequently Lutfullah, Ali Bey's son, Nouh, and Shehreddin came back again and ransacked the house. These shameful deeds I announce to your reverences.

(Signed) RUPIK SEFIRIAN.

No. 2. On Friday night, as we were sleeping in our house, we were surrounded; a door was broken open, and the Muktitar of the Mussulman quarter of our village, together with ten other villagers, twenty Bashi-Bazouks from Tellas, and thirty more from Kaisarieh, entered the house. They dragged my aged father and my brother stark naked into the street, beat them with the butts of their rifles, and left them there for three hours, *i.e.*, from 10 o'clock (Turkish time) until morning, so that they were nearly frozen. My wife and children fled for refuge to neighbours' houses, but my mother was too ill to escape, and was trampled under foot. Half of these ruffians then proceeded to our shop in the bazaar, where they broke open the door, pulled my younger brother, who was sleeping there, out of bed, and dragged him naked into the street. Then saying, "We are going to search the shop," they took away some of our books and registers and other papers and half of our stock, and returned again to the house, where they had the table set in my sick mother's room, and devoured all the eatables in the place, while they sent us to Ahmed Bey's house and kept us there until 9 o'clock, after which they let us go.

(Signed) GARABED SERKERIAN.

No. 3. Shehreddin came to my house with two zaptiehs, and said, "We are going to take your son Mardiros." I replied that he was in bed, wounded, and they seeing my son's condition left him and went away. Next day Shehreddin returned alone, saying, "If you will give me 3 medjidiehs I will not take your son; otherwise I will take him, even if I only take his corpse." My son declared that I should not give the money, but I, in my terror, gave him secretly 40½ piastres, upon which he said, "All right; I am satisfied," and took himself off.

(Signed) MARIAM DJIVANIAN.

No. 4. On Saturday the 9th (21st) January, two officials and a mounted zaptieh came to my house, and after searching and scrutinizing every corner of it, they laid it to my charge as an offence that I had become a schoolmaster, and took me to the house of Ahmed Bey, where they shut me up until 7 o'clock on the following day without food or water, and without letting me even quit the room. Then Nourri and Ali Effendi took me, saying, "We are going to get a document read to you at Dervish Effendi's," and brought me to his house. There, after the document had been read,

permission was given me to depart; but as I was departing, Dervish Effendi caused the Bashi-Bazouks to surround me, and they began to kick me and beat me with their rifles and to cuff me, and to strip me of my clothes, and on my attempting to resist they flung me violently against the wall, so that my head and ears were cut and wounded. Not content with this, they dragged me down into the straw shed and were about to outrage me, when, in answer to the cries for help raised by the ladies of the house, Hadji Effendi came to the rescue and released me. As a result of this, I was confined to my bed for a fortnight, while the 150 pupils of the school remained without their lessons. Moreover, no trace remained of the money that I had upon me.

(Signed) PANOUHI DONEKIAN.

No. 5. Being awakened in the night by a great uproar, I found a crowd of people in my house engaged in ransacking boxes and baskets. After they had eaten some cream and other things, they began to abuse me with opprobrious language, declaring that I should be dead within three days. Being already in bad health, I was terrified by this. Some days later these people sent me word by my brother-in-law, Hatchadour Agha, that they were going to do all sorts of things to me and send me to the city, but that if I gave them 14 medjidiehs they would leave me alone. I replied that I had no money. On account of this I live in great fear.

(Signed) AGHTSABET DJIVANIAN.

No. 6. About the 10th January Tcherkess Hamza and Lutfullah came to my house, as they said, to search for arms. After abusing us for some time they shut up my father in the straw shed and beat him with sticks; then they took my little brother and beat him in the same way. My mother, being unable to restrain her feelings, flung herself at their feet and begged for mercy, but they paid no attention to her, saying, "There will be one dog the less." Then I too intervened, but they at once seized me, and thrashed me with their sticks. Finally, they took me to Teizim Keil (?), and after beating me there also in various ways, they made me open the shop, and Hamza took about 2 liras' worth of goods.

(Signed) GARABET BUDEKIAN.

No. 7. As I was passing in front of the monastery, a number of Bashi-Bazouks who were surrounding the monastery seized me, and beat me with the butts of their rifles. They then took me to the village of Nereze. My donkey and my saddle-bags were lost. Kessedji-oghlou Mehmed Bey took from me a medjidieh and a knife. I remained a prisoner all night, and then they let me go. In the village Kavass-oghlou Nouh, without any reason, seized me by the collar in the middle of the bazaar, and took 10 piastres from me on the pretence that I owed him a medjidieh.

On the 9th (21st) January Tcherkess Hamza, Lutfullah, Shehreddin, Shakir, and Nouh, together with a man from the village of Eshedin and some others, meeting Garabet Bourlian in front of the bakehouse, beat him with the sticks they had in their hands, and took him to my brother's house. Shehreddin drew his knife and was going to cut off his ears, but being unable to stand the cries and lamentations of my mother they left him.

(Signed) AGOBDJAN TERZIYAN.

No. 8. On the 11th (23rd) January Tcherkess Hamza, Shehreddin, and Lutfullah forced their way into my house, and beat me with extreme violence with clubs. My daughter-in-law fell ill with terror, and is still confined to her bed. I held Shehreddin's note of hand for a debt of 2½ liras, and he threatened me that if I did not give up the note he would carry off my daughter-in-law into the mountains. Though I appealed to Hadji Effendi, yet I was obliged in my fright to give up the note.

Ali Bey's son, with a number of other companions, came at night and forced an entry into my house, seizing and carrying off thirty cakes of dough and six pieces of

smoked meat and other provisions which were intended for the food of my wife and family. The same person came afterwards and worried me to give him 3 liras to purchase tobacco with, and I gave him 2 medjidiehs.

(Signed) MARBESSA BUDEKIAN.

No. 9. Early in the morning of the 9th (21st) January Djinili Kir Hussein and five Kaisarieh Bashi-Bazouks, armed with Martinis and other weapons, entered my house and called for raki. I said I had none, but I caused wine to be brought, and they drank about two batmans of wine, and eat and slept in the house until 3 o'clock at night. Then they got up, and about 5 o'clock they went away. My wife is still ill from the effects of this. Four days after this Tcherkess Hamza sent two men to ask for my saddle, saying, "If he does not give me the saddle, to-morrow morning he will not find his wife." In my fright I gave them the saddle, which was worth 3 liras. A year previously he had taken my horse, which was worth 15 liras, to sell for me on commission, and sold it, but I had only with great difficulty, and five months after the sale, succeeded in getting 4 liras from him.

(Signed) ASSADOUR TUDJARIAN.

No. 10. Hamza, Lutfullah, Shakir, Shehreddin, Ali Bey's son, Nouh, and twenty others, beat my wife and myself and Kaissari-oghlou Agobdjan, who was staying in my house as a guest, most severely with clubs.

(Signed) MARDIROS ASSAYIAN.

No. 11. Hamza and Lutfullah, and their other companions, came to my house and beat me and my brother. My wife, having been only recently delivered, was taken ill with the fright, and is still confined to her bed, while my mother was so affected by terror that she died from it.

(Signed) GARABED ASSAYIAN.

No. 12. Elbaz-oghlou Shefket got into my house by cutting a hole in the door with his knife. "Give me raki," he said; "I am going to kill you at once;" and, so saying, he drew out his knife. I was so frightened that I gave him what he wanted. Two days later he came again with four others, and in my terror I gave him whatever he asked for.

(Signed) GULISTAN (daughter of Issa Artin).

No. 13. On the 9th (21st) January, as I was going to church, Djinili Hussein and his companions made me turn back. They came to my house and searched my boxes. Four documents are missing. They beat me severely. On the following day, as I was at my uncle's house, Tcherkess Hamza and some others came and beat us in an indescribable manner. I was carried home on a carpet.

(Signed) KÉVORK ASSAYAN.

No. 14. On the above-named day the Bashi-Bazouks broke open my door, searched all my boxes, and carried off ten documents and an antique knife. Next day Tcherkess Hamza came again with some others to my house and beat me, leaving me in an entirely stupefied condition.

(Signed) SERKES ASSAYIAN.

No. 15. About 10 o'clock on the night of Saturday, the January, a violent knocking was heard at our door. Looking out at the window I saw several officials and zaptiehs, together with about thirty Bashi-Bazouks. On my opening the door they rushed in, without being accompanied either by the Moukhtar of the quarter or by the Priest, and proceeded to burst open and ransack all my boxes and cupboards. They beat us with the butt-ends of their rifles, and shut us up in Ahmed Bey's house. They

blasphemed our religion and faith and the Holy Cross, and put iron handcuffs on us. About sixty persons were so confined, of whom eight were selected and forwarded to Kaisarieh. These eight were put in underground cells beneath the Kaisarieh Prison, without even a mat to lie on, and left for twenty-four hours in that damp place without food, or water, or attention for our wounds, and without even sending for bread. Twenty-eight hours later they brought us into the presence of the Mutessarif, who told us to go and make the people of our village lay down their arms. He sent an official with us, and we collected all the arms that were in the village, and sent them back in charge of this official.

(Signed) MEGHIRDITCH KARAKEHIYIAN.

It has been shown how a Zeibeck of the village of Kessi beat Bedros Pembedjian in our village, and took a medjidieh from him by force. At the present time such a lawless state of affairs exists in our village and its neighbourhood, such acts of robbery, plunder, and pillage continue to occur, that the inhabitants of our village do not venture forth anywhere in pursuit of their callings. More especially since the Local Government has taken away the arms which the Christian population used to carry for the defence of their persons, and refuses to restore them, not one of us dares to go about for purposes of trade, and commerce has, for some time past, been in a state of complete stagnation, so that we are unable to meet in due time the demands of the Imperial Treasury, the payment of which is a sacred obligation, and it becomes necessary to sell, often for half its value, even the one poor cow which constitutes the sole resource of the poor or the widow. As we desire to resume our commercial operations, and so be enabled to discharge our duty in the payment of our obligations, and it is as clear as daylight this painful condition of ours cannot possibly be in accordance with the wishes of our merciful and justice-loving Sovereign, we have drawn up this statement with a view to laying it before the Imperial footstool, and imploring his attention and compassion.

(Signed) Moukhtar of the village of Efkere.
DER ISSAK SETAYIAN. (?)
DER HATCHADOUR SETAYIAN. (?)

NOTE.—This statement, intended to serve as a specimen of the acts of violence and oppression committed in the village of Efkere, in the Vilayet of Kaisarieh, was drawn up on the spot, and the facts complained of by the individuals whose respective signatures are appended to each paragraph are all confirmed by the local Parish Council and by the spiritual head of the community, in whose possession the original document is preserved. It was intended that this copy should be put in and read at the trial, and that another copy should also be presented to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, but in the same way that each one of the accused, when he alluded to the prevailing injustice and oppression, was prohibited from speaking on that subject, so this document also was not allowed to be read any more than the speeches for the defence. All the numerous complaints that have been made in high places concerning this terrible condition of affairs have only been consigned to the waste-paper basket, and it has been found impossible to get this copy or the original forwarded to its high destination.

No. 154.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 347.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 25, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a Memorandum regarding events at Van and Bitlis, which was left with me a few days ago by an American missionary resident here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Memorandum of Occurrences at Van and Vicinity.

From a Letter, dated Van, June 25, 1893.

LAST Wednesday a band of seventy soldiers were sent up to the Armenian monastery on Mount Varak (in the immediate vicinity of Van), for what purpose is not known. They made a business of spoiling everything they could put their hands on. They trampled bread into the mud, carried off wheat and provisions, took away two dozen sheep, and ran amuck through everything. It is said that the Government has spies both here and at the monastery of St. Krikor (Gregory), and when Armenians come to either monastery for an outing or picnic, the spies are to give word that soldiers may be sent, and may break up such pernicious gatherings! This seems to be true, since many who have gone to these places of late have been arrested and imprisoned. Yesterday was a holiday in honour of St. Gregory the Illuminator, and usually crowds go up to the monastery of that Saint. But yesterday not a man dared to go there. How infinitely better it would have been for the crowds to go to the pleasant grounds of the monastery and forget for a little while that there is a Government than to spend the day on the streets and in the coffee-houses growling over their condition! What a shame it is! When Kurds do atrocious things, it is no more than we expect from them; but for the Government deliberately to follow their example is barbarous.

From a Letter, dated Bitlis, June 1893.

The reports from various parts of Eastern Turkey show even more forcibly than the reports of previous years the increasing and extreme poverty of the people and the strained political situation.

The cholera of last autumn and winter, with the quarantines, caused great business stagnation. In many places, the prices of wheat and other staple foods doubled and tripled, thereby bringing great suffering among the very poor. Merchants and traders who import goods for the interior trade lost heavily, since the excessive cost of transportation, together with quarantine expenses, made the price of their goods far more than the people could afford to pay.

Taxes are an ever increasing burden. In one village near the city of Van the sheep tax-gatherer, a Kurd, wrote down all the flocks and their owners, saying that those who had 25 sheep were written 30, those who had 50 sheep had 70 recorded against them, and so on. The tax-gatherer threatened to accuse the villagers of harbouring political fugitives in case they made any complaint. Everywhere sheep and lamb is taxed 3½ piastres a-year, a sum which is all the average villager can earn in a day.

In another village 300 sheep had been stolen by the Kurds before the arrival of the tax-gatherer, but the tax for them was demanded and collected just the same.

In another village in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, last November, the harvested grain was left to spoil in the fields. The grain had been piled up in the customary stacks according to law, that, when threshed, the tax-gatherer might come and take his share, but he did not come. The tithes of the wheat were to be sold to the highest bidder, but not a single man could raise the smallest sum which the Government demanded. In the meanwhile rains came, and as the villagers were not allowed to touch the grain, much of it spoiled in the stocks.

In many places the attitude of the Government towards its Christian subjects grows ever more and more severe. For Christians to own fire-arms of any kind is treason, though their Turkish and Kurdish neighbours may be, and generally are, well armed.

Christians are often aroused at midnight, and hurried to prison or to exile without even being told the reason why. To have books in one's house is often deemed a sufficient reason for the imprisonment of the owner until the books can be examined. And it often happens that the examination of the books is delayed for months.

Instances are multiplying where Armenians, owing to the oppressive taxes and other hardships to which they are subjected, have turned from the faith of their fathers and become Mahommedans. In one village four families, in another six, and in still another fifteen families, including a priest, have recently declared their acceptance of

Mahommedanism. As such an act is rewarded by exemption from taxes for fifteen years, it is very probable that more and more of these wretched Christians will be driven to do likewise.

No. 155.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 349.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 25, 1893.*

IN the course of a conversation which I had yesterday with the Grand Vizier his Highness asked me if I had heard anything of an extraordinary statement made in a London paper as to the torture inflicted on an Armenian by the insertion of living insects under the skin of his head. I said I had read in a London journal this ghastly story, which was almost too horrible to be believed, but that it had not been reported to me from the interior. I added that I feared there had been very severe ill-treatment of Armenian prisoners, as I had received reports of severe beatings, burning with pincers, and other iniquities.

His Highness said he could hardly believe this could have been the case, and that there was always much exaggeration in these tales. I replied that I had no doubt exaggerations were occasionally made, but that my reports were very detailed, and that if he wished I would communicate them privately to him. His Highness said he should be very grateful, as he should like to see them. He feared that by the fact of the Embassy sending reports of outrages home a certain indirect official confirmation was given to their accuracy. I replied that I should be very happy, whenever I received reports of outrages and cruelties, to communicate them privately to him, and should be quite willing, when forwarding them to your Lordship, to state at the same time my observations he might have to make on them. I had no desire to report behind his back.

I think it would be as well to let his Highness have the information we have received, though it will be necessary to suppress the names of the victims. I am afraid the only result will be a flat denial on the part of the Ottoman Government that such things are possible in the Ottoman dominions.

I told his Highness, speaking in quite an unofficial way, that I thought a weeding among the provincial officials would not be out of place, that it would be of advantage to both sides if men like Hosref Pasha were removed. His Highness said Hosref Pasha had been much misrepresented, and that it was a calumny to say that he was an ex-brigand and had been in prison. As I did not think it of any advantage to raise the question of Turkish administration in the Asiatic provinces without instructions from your Lordship and in a perfunctory way, I merely replied that Hosref Pasha's antecedents would scarcely bear inquiry, and I then changed the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 156.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 357. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 31, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, transmitting an interesting Memorandum on the origin and significance of the late Armenian movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 156.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, July 1, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith a Confidential Memorandum, in which I have endeavoured to give an account of the origin and significance of the Armenian troubles which took place during the past winter in the Provinces of Sivas and Angora.

Accurate knowledge of the internal history and motives of such movements it is, of course, almost impossible to obtain. I only put forward these views, based upon information collected in the course of my recent journey through the disturbed districts, for what they are worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 156.

Memorandum on Armenian Troubles in Sivas and Angora Vilayets of January 1893.

THE scene of the Armenian troubles of January 1893 is in itself sufficient to arouse strong suspicion as to the genuineness of the supposed insurrectionary movement. If it is claimed that this movement is to be accepted as a desperate protest against persecution, we find on examination that, speaking generally, the Armenian population of the Angora and Sivas provinces had no special grievances to complain of. Kurdish marauders are unknown in the provinces, and the Christians lived on fairly good terms with their Turkish neighbours. It was only in Sivas itself that they had been of late exposed to a certain amount of minor political annoyance. While, if an explanation of this agitation is sought in a real patriotic movement, initiated for the purpose of throwing off the Turkish yoke, we find it incredible that an insignificant minority of not more than one-sixth of the population, a minority unused to arms and averse to fighting, should dare to revolt against the dominant race and Government.

Everything points to the fact that an insurrectionary movement was never seriously intended, the design really being to create an appearance of revolt and disorder for the purpose of attracting attention and provoking foreign interference. Similar tactics had been attempted three years ago in Van, Moush, and Erzeroum, where there really are great centres of Armenian population, and a year later in Kharput and the northern part of Diarbekir, Arabkir and Egin being the principal seats of disturbance. The severities with which these districts were visited have now rendered them a bad field for the operations of the forward party among the Armenian Nationalists, and the prosperous Armenian Colonies of Central Anatolia were made to furnish them with instruments on this occasion.

The leaders of this advanced party are largely Russian Armenians, some of whom, no doubt, have seen service in the Russian army, and are familiar with arms and some of the details of military organization, while others are fugitives from Russia on account of their Nihilistic or Socialistic tendencies. Others again are merely professional agitators, who find it necessary from time to time to show some results for the funds they collect for nationalistic purposes. A band of agitators of this class were established for some time at Geneva, whence some of them at least transferred their activity and the publication of a revolutionary journal called "Hindzak" to Athens. Other similar organizations are said to exist in Marseilles, in England, the United States, and the Caucasus, and to have contributed funds, seditious literature, arms, and workers.

Once the ground had been chosen, it became necessary to prepare it. Marsovan was selected as the seat of the Organizing Committee, being near the port of Samsoon, and occupying a good central position, from which surrounding Armenian colonies could be affected. After a preliminary meeting held at Marsovan in the summer of 1892, and attended by a few delegates from abroad, and others said to represent local interests, secret agents were dispatched with instructions to organize secret Committees in the neighbouring towns, to enrol men, and to assist in distributing seditious literature and arms. This was done with some success in Marsovan itself, in Cesarea, Yuzgat, Tchoroum, Gemerek, and one or two other small places, but with very poor

results in Sivas city, and the prosperous towns of Tokat and Amasia. I am not inclined to believe that the total number who allowed themselves to be persuaded into joining the movement can have exceeded a few hundreds, chiefly youths of the most ignorant class. Some of these were told that an army of 100,000 Armenians, with European officers, were on the Russian frontier, awaiting the signal to invade Turkey and liberate them, or that the new Liberal Cabinet in England would surely come to their assistance, and others were threatened with personal violence, or denunciation to the authorities as conspirators, if they would not enrol themselves.

A movement based on such precarious foundations could not be very serious in its direct consequences. The posting of the seditious placards was accompanied by a slight splutter of disturbance, which was almost immediately quenched by wholesale arrests and imprisonments; and, with the exception of Marsovan, where the Organizing Committee contrives to exist (in defiance of the Turkish police) and make itself felt by occasional manifestations of Nihilistic vengeance on informers, the whole movement has collapsed. In its indirect effects, however, it may be said to have achieved a partial success, in so far as the folly and misconduct of some Government officials have, to a certain extent, justified the complaints of persecution; while a spirit of hostility and race-hatred has been aroused among the hitherto friendly Turkish population which may some day, if further provoked, find vent in reprisals and atrocities.

An interesting, but difficult, point to elucidate is the question of the origin of the seditious placards, which were posted in large numbers throughout the disturbed district. Their contents show no trace of Armenian aspirations or complaints, although many of the Armenian prisoners admit being concerned in distributing and affixing them, and I am disposed to adopt the following theory of their origin. They were perhaps composed by malcontent Turks resident abroad, partisans of the ex-Sultan Murad and of the Young Turkey party, and communicated by them to the Armenian agitators, to be made use of for the purpose of creating a belief that a widespread movement of disaffection existed among the Turkish population. It has also been suggested that some of the hangers-on of the ex-Vali of Sivas, Memdouh Bey, were privy to the affair of the placards, and perhaps assisted in their multiplication and distribution, with a view to discrediting the administration of the newly-appointed Vali, Khalil Bey; but no conclusive evidence on this head has been brought to my knowledge, nor anything to justify the other theory which has been put forward, that the placards were the work of the discontented law and theology students (Softas) who were expelled from Constantinople last year in large numbers and sent to their homes in Anatolia.

The last point on which I shall endeavour to throw a little light is the meaning of the attempt which has been made to ruin the American College at Marsovan by showing it to be a hot-bed of Armenian sedition. I learn that some of the Sivas officials, notably Khosrev Pasha, the Chief of Gendarmerie, Ibrahim Effendi Gökmen, the former Chief of Police at Marsovan, and the former Kaimakam of Marsovan, having unsuccessfully tried to extort bribes from the college in connection with building permits and other business, threatened to be revenged on the first opportunity. This was furnished by the recent political troubles, and their design was assisted by the fact that Marsovan was undoubtedly the head-quarters of Armenian conspiracy in Anatolia. It only remained to connect the college in some way with the movement, and the burning of one of the college buildings, which was ascribed by some (and not without reason) to the police themselves, was reported by them as an endeavour to conceal the traces of conspiracy. They were aware that the American missionaries and their educational establishments are regarded with suspicion in high quarters as disseminators of liberal opinions, and they also knew that the new Vali, Khalil Bey, was hostile to missionary influences. Acting on this idea, they were bold enough to charge the Americans themselves with treasonable practices, and, of course, overreached themselves by trying to prove too much.

When that preposterous charge broke down, they were obliged to cover their retreat by insisting upon the guilt of at least the native members of the college staff. Colour was given to this by the fact of Professor Thoumaian being a kinsman and namesake of one of the most active of the real conspirators at Marsovan. The conspirators themselves were quite ready to profit by this confusion, as it would help to conceal their own movements. They were actuated by no friendly feelings towards the missionaries and their protégés, who have always held aloof from political agitation, and were content that the latter should be unjustly accused in their stead, as they would be sure to command the assistance of their American and English sympathizers, and so secure the attention which it has all along been their design to attract towards alleged Turkish misrule and persecution. Here again they were rewarded by a partial success owing to the misconduct of the above-named officials, and to Khalil Bey's mistake in acting on their representations in the first place, and in obstinately refusing to abandon his false position when he must have become aware of the real facts.

The redeeming feature in the whole story was the proclamation of the amnesty, and the honest endeavour to give effect to it in most places. In this the Sivas authorities have shown themselves far behind those of Angora, and many cases were quoted to me in which they had been far from acting in the spirit of the Sultan's orders. An improvement in this respect, and in the capacity of the Sivas police to cope with the dangerous knot of conspirators at Marsovan, can only be secured by a wholesale clearance of corrupt officials, when confidence would gradually be restored and Sivas would begin to settle down, as Angora appears to be doing, to the normal condition of quiet which has been so rudely and uselessly disturbed by this mock insurrection and its suppression.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

Erzeroum, July 1, 1893.

No. 157.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 359.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 31, 1893.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 152 of the 30th instant, I have the honour to report that I instructed Sir A. Sandison to inquire of the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether it was true that the sentences pronounced by the Tribunal at Angora, and confirmed by the "Cour de Cassation" here, had been commuted, and, if so, to what extent had the sentences been mitigated.

Saïd Pasha made a statement to Sir Alfred Sandison, with the request that he would take it down in writing and communicate it to me. The statement was as follows:—

"Every independent Government is at liberty to apply within its country the provisions of the law, especially in cases of sedition, in order to maintain order and public security. The individuals who were judged at Angora had been guilty of murder and of political offences, and had, as was reasonable, been condemned to suffer the punishment which the law prescribes in similar cases. Nevertheless, His Imperial Majesty, in his high clemency, had commuted the sentences, which had been submitted to his approbation, in the following manner:

"Twelve individuals, including Thoumayan and Kayayan, had been condemned to death. The Council of Ministers had recommended that their sentences should be commuted to fifteen years' hard labour. The Sultan had reduced these sentences to eight years' hard labour only.

"Six individuals had been condemned to be interned in a fortress for fifteen years. The Council of Ministers had recommended that the term should be reduced to ten years, but His Majesty had reduced it to six years.

"Eight individuals had been condemned to be interned in a fortress for ten years. The Council of Ministers recommended the reduction of this term to seven years, but His Majesty had reduced it to four years.

"Ten individuals had been condemned to a similar punishment for seven years. The Council of Ministers had recommended the reduction of the term to five years, but the Sultan had reduced it to three years.

"Besides the individuals alluded to above who were condemned for political offences, there were five others who had been convicted of murder and sentenced to death. The sentences of these individuals had not been commuted."

The above is the statement of Saïd Pasha, and his Excellency further explained to Sir A. Sandison that imprisonment in a fortress was a light punishment, as, if the prisoners were placed in a town where there was a fortress or citadel, they would have free liberty of movement within the boundaries of the town.

The commutations are certainly a step in the right direction; still, eight years' hard labour on Tanel and Bachlaf are exceptionally severe sentences, if the

only charges against them were those reported in my despatch No. 317 of the 11th instant.

Said Pasha has informed me that the decisions of the Angora Tribunal are being translated at the Sublime Porte with all possible expedition, and he has promised to send me a copy of the decision, "Ilam," as it is termed, as well as a translation.

The document, I am told, is a lengthy one. It may perhaps be as well to await the production of that document, as it will then be seen on what grounds the Angora Tribunal based its judgments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 158.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 365.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 31, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves, reporting on fighting and loss of life among the Hassananli Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Erzeroum, July* 18, 1893.

WITH reference to Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch of the 20th February, reporting the occurrence of fighting and loss of life among the Hassananli Kurds in the Melazgerd district, I have the honour to report that a fresh conflict, attended by considerable bloodshed, has taken place between the rival sections of the Hassananli tribe about the 27th ultimo. It is said that the leader of one of the factions, Yousouf Egid, was killed, and that several others of the "Torouns" or tribal Chiefs were among the killed and wounded, who are now said to amount in all to over 120 men, including the losses incurred in the previous fighting of last autumn and winter.

Mahmoud Bey, a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Staff, was sent from Melazgerd with about eighty regular cavalry to the scene of the recent affray; but the Kurdish Chiefs are said to have warned him off, and he was obliged to return without accomplishing anything.

I am informed that military measures have subsequently been taken resulting in a cessation of hostilities for the present, although the district continues to be in a very disturbed condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 159.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 368.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 31, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton respecting the treatment of Armenian prisoners at Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 159.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, July* 13, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 10th instant.

With regard to the attempted escape of the Armenian prisoners from the local prison, I have had a further interview with his Excellency the Vali; he informs me that an attempt was made to escape by digging underneath the foundations of the prison walls, but the attempt was made by two Turkish prisoners, and not by the Armenians, as at first supposed.

His Excellency also informs me that the Armenians have not been subjected to any harsh treatment beyond the prison Regulations, as no blame is attached to them respecting this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 159.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, July* 13, 1893.

IN referring to my private letter of the 8th instant respecting the treatment of the Armenian prisoners, I have the honour to confirm from further inquiries I have made that some of the prisoners were harshly treated for having attempted to escape from prison. His Excellency the Vali made strict inquiries into the matter, and it was elicited that the Armenians had not participated in it, nor had any knowledge of the affair.

As the report of the ill-treatment of the Armenians had got abroad and was generally talked about, I took the opportunity of again mentioning to his Excellency that these reports might find their way to the London newspapers, and it would save unpleasantness if kinder treatment were meted out to the prisoners. I spoke rather plainly to the Vali, and translated to him some cuttings from the English papers, and demonstrated to him the interest this affair was still causing in England, and any undue severity towards the prisoners would create a still further painful impression in England and elsewhere.

With respect to the other prisoners who have not yet been put upon their trial, the Vali informs me that they are not charged with taking part in this revolutionary affair. These men were arrested with the others who have been convicted, and were originally charged with them. This charge has evidently been withdrawn, probably owing to instructions from Constantinople. Some are now charged with brigandage; others with assault and minor charges of theft. These poor fellows have been in prison five or six months awaiting their trial. They do not know the nature of the charges against them. I asked the Vali when this trial would come on, and he informed me they would be tried at once.

In addition to the prisoners here, there are in other parts of the vilayet some twenty or thirty others who have been lying in these miserable dungeons for months awaiting their trial. It is extremely cruel to these poor fellows and their families to be kept in suspense so long; they are anxious to know their fate, whatever it may be.

After my interview with the Vali the other day respecting the flogging of the Armenians he called some of them before him, and asked them to sign a paper to the effect that they had not been ill-treated; they refused to sign, on the ground that some of them had been badly beaten; it is most probable they will be forced to sign. Such a document may be taken for what it is worth.

In reverting to the recent trial, I see in a telegraphic despatch in the "Daily News" that the "Procureur-Général" asked the prisoners why they had not telegraphed to the Sultan about their trial; they replied, according to the "Daily News," that they had sent a telegram to the local telegraph office, but it was not sent, but handed to him, the "Procureur-Général." I have watched the case very closely, and no such incident came to my notice. It is evident the "Daily News" has been misinformed.

The authorities are exercising a strict censorship over all telegrams. All messages handed into the telegraph office must be intelligible to the officials; if not, they refuse to send them unless made out to their satisfaction.

The news in the London papers has caused a great flutter in official circles here, and the strict scrutiny of telegrams is no doubt with the object of suppressing information.

The local authorities are again exercising the greatest vigilance to prevent any information getting abroad, and are reticent about the number of Armenians now in the prisons. I cannot see the advantage in suppressing information, as I am able to obtain it from other sources quite as reliable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 160.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 369.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 2, 1893.*

DURING a visit I paid the Grand Vizier yesterday his Highness remarked that he trusted that the great clemency shown by His Imperial Majesty in so largely reducing the sentences on the Armenian prisoners at Angora would be appreciated in England, where it should make an excellent impresssion. I remarked that I had not had time to know what impression would be produced, but I could tell him frankly that, in my opinion, the sentences, even as they now stood, were exceedingly severe in some cases, notably in those of the priest Tanel and of Agop Bachlaf. His Highness expressed much surprise at this, and said that I should await the publication of the *procès-verbaux*, when I would see that the charges were very grave against the prisoners. I would also be able to convince myself that the trial had been a fair one. I told him I should be exceedingly hard to convince on that point, and so would, I was sure, both my Government and the British public. Such extraordinary things had passed at the trial that it was absurd to speak of its fairness. How could a trial be fair when no proper defence was allowed? His Highness said he knew the British Consul had reported as much, but that he had not much confidence in the Consul's impartiality. I contested the right of his Highness to attack the Vice-Consul, in whom Her Majesty's Government had confidence; and, moreover, it was not only from him that we had received reports of the trial. This matter then dropped, and his Highness proceeded to speak of the cases of ill-treatment which I had privately communicated to him. He said he could not bring himself to believe that such ill-treatment had taken place, and that he was sure we had been informed from quarters interested in spreading false and malicious reports. "Why," his Highness said, "we might, if these reports were true, be in the time of the Inquisition." I replied that there were points of resemblance with the Inquisition, and that, though a humane man like his Highness might find difficulty in believing such ill-treatment had been inflicted, I was perfectly convinced that my information was, in the main, accurate; I had only communicated to his Highness a portion of what had reached me, and what I had retained was far worse. His Highness pressed me to disclose my sources of information, which I declined to do, not from any want of confidence in his discretion, but I said that I feared the local officials might revenge themselves on my informants.

His Highness said he intended to cause a very searching inquiry to be made, and if he were to discover that any ill-treatment could be brought home to any official or individual, the severest punishment should be meted out. I told him that this was the best course he could pursue, as the recital of the sad occurrences had attracted considerable attention in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 161.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 371.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 3, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translations of speeches which were intended to be delivered by three of the condemned prisoners before the Angora Tribunal, but to which it is said that Court refused to listen.

All these prisoners were condemned to death, but their sentences have since been commuted to eight years' hard labour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

Statement of Mardiros Djivanian.

(Translation.)

YOU see that I am young in years, yet thus early in life I have been indicted on a most serious offence. I have suffered much torture and ill-treatment, so much so, indeed, that I no longer valued my life in the least. What could it be that obliged me, at my age, to undergo such tortures? Though I have struggled to explain the cause and real object, I have hitherto been unsuccessful. Indeed, whenever I have made an effort to explain them I have met with abuse, for my explanations have been received in a sense opposed to that in which they were meant. Possibly it did not suit them to take them in their literal sense; but now at least, before this honourable Tribunal, I can have no doubt about my declaration being received in its true interpretation.

For some time, *i.e.*, since this business cropped up, there has been much talk about "the Armenian question." But what is the origin of this idea? Our Association was bound by its rules, which are before the Court. Let them be read and considered. Is there anything in them about religious or nationalistic particularism, or any chimerical scheme for setting up an independent Government or anything of that sort?

The basis of our pretensions, and that which impelled us to incur these tortures and insults, these cruelties and penalties, was the desire of serving the community, *i.e.*, the population in general. It is true that a portion of the population does not yet participate in our design, and is even desirous of representing it as generally noxious. But the people may be likened to a child; for in order to prevent a child from taking sugar and such-like things, its parents sometimes try to deceive it by saying, "My child, it is bitter, or nasty, or poisonous," and so on. But the child, following the natural instinct to know about everything he sees, to taste everything he has not yet eaten, and to ascertain the truth, eventually puts the forbidden thing to his mouth, and finds it out, and discovers that his parents' statements concerning the taste of it were not true. Whereupon he begins to stamp his feet on the ground and cry for the thing to be given him, until at last he gets it.

The actual question is just like that. Whatever name or title or appearance be given to it, the people, following its natural instincts, will not be content with mere hearsay, but will examine and inquire with a view to arriving at the truth of the matter, and will certainly acquire a correct understanding of the real state of the case, and, if not to-day, at least some day, will take firm hold of it. If we refer to history, we shall see that the progress and advancement of a nation or community has depended upon the spiritual and material energy which it has exerted in the endeavour to escape from the grasp of ignorance. This being so, why does the Government regard in such a very different manner the fact that the people, having just perceived this truth, demonstrates its natural desire and inclination to seek the salvation to which its instinct points, viz., to live the life of the perfect man, and so strikes out a new path, and forms Associations with that end in view? Why is punishment and torture inflicted on it? Why are accusations made which put a perpetual barrier in the way of personal liberty? And why are the Associations formed for that object stigmatized as seditious?

The indignities which have been heaped upon me in the course of these proceedings have not only not been exceeded in the civilized world, but perhaps not even among the savages of Africa. Not to mention severe beatings and various kinds of torture, I was dragged by the neck over the stones. Not only I, but even my tormentors and those that directed them, gave me up for dead. I was carried in a crippled condition to my home. After twenty-five days, when I was slightly recovered, I was again put into confinement. Do you think I was in the least disheartened by this tribulation and torture? Why should I be? For I regarded these as being incurred in a sacred cause, the service of my race, and I was and still am prepared to undergo them all, and even death itself. Can anything be conceived greater or more glorious for a man than to earn an honourable mention for all time in history? Our complaints and lamenta-

tions are against the acts of oppression perpetrated by the greater number of the officials, and against their venality and corruption, and their failure to maintain legality and justice; against the imposition of new and burdensome taxes to the extent of diminishing the wealth and resources and enfeebling the commerce of the country; against the withholding of the freedom of the press which is enjoyed by other civilized countries; against the impediments placed in the way of our progress along the path of civilization and prosperity. If this is so, that is to say, if our conduct and actions and the statements contained in the Rules of our Association are correct and well-founded, why should we be regarded as criminals? I cannot doubt that the sense of justice of this Court and of the public has virtually decided in our favour that this is so. After that I leave it absolutely to your conscience whether the judgment which the Court is about to pronounce be in our favour or against us. It is enough for me that my mind and conscience are at rest in the perfect assurance that one day or other the light of justice will be visible above the horizon of truth.

(Signed) MARDIROS DJIVANIAN.

May 29 (*June* 10), 1893.

N.B.—This defence was not permitted by the President to be read at the trial, and the signatory was officially forbidden to read it.

Note.—Mardiros Djivanian, of Efkere, a youth of 19, figures as No. 12 in the list of persons subjected to torture. He was condemned to death.

Inclosure 2 in No. 161.

Statement of Agob Baghlavouni.

(Translation.)

ALTHOUGH I am charged, on the indictment of the "Procureur Impérial" with a criminal offence, I venture to solicit the attention of the Court to the following statement:—

I am a native of the village of Ghemrek, in the Tomous Caza of the Vilayet of Sivas, and I was arrested and imprisoned, together with seventy other persons, a few days subsequent to the date of the nonsensical notices which were placarded in that district.

Emin Effendi, a Major on the retired list, who happened to be there on his own initiative and entirely outside the limits of his proper sphere of duty, taking the pen of a "Juge d'Instruction" in one hand, and arbitrary authority in the other, set on foot an investigation, with inquiries in one direction, vexations in another, and in the third special injunctions to Imam Oghlou Mehmed Effendi, who was in our village for the collection of taxes, to institute domiciliary visits and perquisitions. This tax-gatherer, surrounding himself with bad characters, began to search first one man's house and then another's (mine he searched thrice), and vented his enmity on us by selling a number of poor people's goods and chattels at very low prices, under pretext of collecting revenue.

These irregularly instituted investigations and perquisitions having been continued for twenty days without the slightest trace or indication being discovered, forty of the prisoners, including myself, were brought to the chief town of the vilayet. There, too, by exceptional arrangements, some of them were confined separately in the rooms occupied by the police, and others were relegated amongst and intrusted to the custody of persons who were themselves imprisoned for murder and other kinds of iniquity, where on the most baseless pretexts they were subjected to all sorts of vexations, threats, blows, and extortion. Being shut off from all intercourse with others, both within and without the prison, we had nowhere to appeal to and no possibility of making our complaints heard.

This state of affairs, viz., investigations carried on with manifold vexations as regards the prisoners, and oppression of those remaining in the village, having continued for fifty days without the least indication of the fancied Revolutionary Society existing in our village, they began to be anxious, and it became clear that the prisoners were innocent; nevertheless, for certain political reasons, their liberation was not considered advisable. One of the prisoners, our village Mudir, Hampar Almalian, being in fear of his life from the sufferings he was undergoing, sent, by means of the renegade Tewfik Effendi, Dragoman of the vilayet, and a relative of his own, 100 liras to the Mustantik, Reshid Effendi, with a request for his release, whereupon he was at

once transferred to the said Dragoman's house. On the payment of that sum this man's liberty was guaranteed by the "Juge d'Instruction," who also undertook, by a simple communication, to obtain Veli Bey's assent, and to secure his continuance in the office of Mudir.

As regards myself, after deliberating upon certain informations received from Kaisarieh, a statement and confession were compiled and formulated, and to facilitate my acceptance of these compilations a clause was added making it appear that I was under the intimidation of the Idjra Mamouri, and it was suggested that I should accept and subscribe to these documents on a promise of impunity; and, when it was seen that I would not subscribe to any such false statements, they began to submit me to fresh annoyances. My brother, who had been ill for a long time, was taken forcibly from his bed in the depth of winter and conveyed in a bullock-waggon a distance of six hours to the prison of the chief town of the caza; without being provided with either food or bedding, I was handed over to the custody of a violent murderer, named Hadji Tokatli, who was in the prison.

It is true that at this time representations were made to Veli Bey by the son of our fellow-townsman, Ahmed Pasha, who was moved by the cruelties which were being universally perpetrated, whereon the cruel tormentors were put in chains, and the money extorted by them restored. Yet this could not prevent the continuance of the vexations. Indeed, not content with the physical sufferings they were inflicting, they invented a series of mental tortures also. Both the Dragoman above alluded to and Hampar Almalian repeatedly came to me and related how they had read in a French paper that the prisoners at Kaisarieh were in a still more pitiable plight, that 200 Armenians had been drowned at Constantinople, and so on, dilated on the sufferings and oppression of our fellow-villagers, or discussed the measures being adopted by the Government either for immediate or for future barbarities. At the same time, they hinted at the possibility of my release, and suggested over and over again that, in the interest both of the prisoners and of the other villagers, I should subscribe to the statement above described. However, they merely continued to beat in a circle without any result, so I began to scheme to obtain the release of the prisoners by a trick. In my desire to release from their miserable state those innocent persons, most of whom belonged to my kith and kin, I fancied it would be a good thing for me to subscribe to the declarations before mentioned, with the idea that I should eventually be brought before a Court of Justice, where I could set forth the truth of the case, or, if the worst came to the worst, I should only sacrifice myself for the good of my country and people. I therefore attested the contents of the said papers, and subsequently repeated it in the presence of the Vali, Khalil Bey.

When things were in this state, only ten days before the publication of the Imperial Iradé, all the prisoners were released, and the Kaimakam, Bekir Bey, who had countenanced the oppression committed in our village, was dismissed from his post, and the tax-collector likewise subjected to an inquiry. From the general investigations and from my concocted statements it becomes perfectly clear that not the slightest evidence, documentary or circumstantial, exists to indicate the existence of a Revolutionary Society at Ghemrek. As regards myself it has not been shown that I belonged to any Committee or Society whatever, nor is there any proof of any person having been instigated by me to revolt, or of any preparations made by me for that object; nor have I committed any crime, except it be that Zebrair [?] stayed for some time at Ghemrek, without effecting anything whatever, and that I had conversations with him and with Andon Rushdoni. I was always a faithful servant of the State and of the community, exclusively occupied with my own private affairs. If the Court has any doubts as to the truth of this declaration, contradicting the mainly fictitious statements which I made under the influence of the machinations and trickery of Almalian, I am liable to be submitted to any kind of investigation, and I most earnestly request the attention of the Court to this point. If, on the other hand, the truth of my present declaration be recognized, and I am not set at liberty, I claim that the facts should be noted in the *procès-verbal*.

(Signed) AGOB BAGHLAVOUNI, of the village of Ghemrek.

May 29 (*June* 10), 1893.

N.B.—The subscriber claimed to read this statement in his defence at the trial, but, in the same way as the other defendants, he was forbidden by the President of the Court.

Inclosure 3 in No. 161.

Statement of Koro Ghirtmanian.

(Translation.)

WE stand upon our trial. Investigations have been set on foot, and a large number of persons arrested, and the Government officials have distorted the true origin and real purpose of this affair, and have put quite a different colour upon it. That is to say, they have imputed to us the crime of inciting and instigating the Armenian inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire to armed revolt against the Government, and looking at the matter from that point of view they have sought to give to the opinions and impressions of both the Government and the general public a false direction in regard to us, and they have succeeded. At any rate, the case is so represented in the indictment formulated against us, and in the charge of the "Procureur Impérial." On our part, we were awaiting an opportunity to explain and elucidate the true purport of these matters, to attract general attention to them, and to enlighten and instruct public opinion in regard to them. Here, in the presence of this august Tribunal, I regard ourselves as fortunate in having attained the longed-for moment, and I proceed to declare the truth.

In regard to these matters, it has been asserted and repeated a thousand times that the Armenians had formed a Revolutionary Society for the purpose of rebelling against the Ottoman rule and obtaining an independent Government; but so long as I live I will strive with all my force to refute this, and to prove that the Armenians have no such futile pretensions, and that their real objects are far removed therefrom. However much the Government officials may regard our actions as seditious, and misrepresent the case; however unwilling they may be, from their own signal incompetency, to recognize the truth, and so impute to us the most serious offences, we are still most confidently assured that the sunlight of justice will one day rise above the horizon of truth, and it will be shown as clear as daylight that instead of being culprits and criminals we are loving children of our country, fully sensible of the glory shed upon it by the Osmanlis' rule.

The Court is aware that in the lapse of time, as human society progresses, everything is daily advancing towards a higher and more perfect condition. Consequently, as the human race daily advances in the path of civilization, men naturally develop all sorts of needs and requirements, which needs and requirements, resulting from the desire of progress, constitute a natural force urging the community forward in one direction. Let me explain this proposition further.

History shows clearly that this nation has for ages, *i.e.*, ever since it came under the Ottoman rule, suffered great oppression and indignities. Why, then, has it not adopted another course, instead of manifesting, as it always has, the most perfect obedience, fidelity, and allegiance? What fair-minded and conscientious person can deny that the fundamental cause of this was that in those times civilization, and knowledge, and science were not so advanced as they now are, and a dreadful darkness ruled over the opinions and feelings of mankind, so that it was beyond the range of their faculties either to sound and appreciate the true source and origin of their condition, or to think out a way or means of liberating themselves from it? But with the lapse of ages, man also has undergone various changes, both physical and intellectual. Consequently, if the present matter be looked at from this point of view, it will be seen as clear as the day that our object on analysis is by no means what it was imagined to be, but that we are loyal subjects, merely following the path of justice, which is the object of the desires of the whole of civilized humanity. If one examines this question of the Committee, which has so exercised the Imperial Government, and has been the cause of my imprisonment and that of so many others, why was this Association stigmatized as revolutionary? This Association was for the purpose of rescuing the Armenians from injustice and oppression—and not the Armenians alone, but the whole population of the Empire. Whence do you get the scheme for the constitution of an "Armenia" and such-like ideas? In our opinion that is merely building castles in the air, and running the risk of being overwhelmed and lost in the vortex of ignorance and folly, instead of advancing straight to salvation. We have satisfied ourselves by the study of history that the felicity of a nation or of a community does not consist in acquiring a tract of land and there setting up an independent Government, but rather in the just, fair, and impartial administration of the country in which and the communities amongst which it lives, without distinction or exception whatsoever. Let us glance for a moment at the world of politics, and examine the recent and the actual condition of the Great Powers

and independent States, whether empires, kingdoms, principalities, or what not, and let us inquire of the populations subject to them whether or no they are contented with their lot. What answer do you suppose we should receive? We cannot doubt that some of them would reply with a loud "No, no!" and some would accompany their answers with heartrending cries of distress and despair. This being so, there must undoubtedly be some good reason for a nation, which is capable of perceiving and appreciating this truth, having adopted a new attitude in these recent years, and raised its voice in lamentation. And this reason must be sought and discovered.

How can we help making complaint, how can we help seeking for novel remedies, when oppression and injustice are being perpetrated upon the hapless people by a set of rascals or by one clique or another, when the lives, honour, and property of the down-trodden people are in a state of complete insecurity, when their legal rights are being perpetually trampled on, and when it is no longer safe to travel from one place to another, so that all trade and commercial operations are suspended?

How can we help making lament, how can we help striving to discover means of restoring tranquillity, when not only does the Government yearly impose new and vexatious taxes upon the people, oppressed and crushed as they are by the weight of misery and barbarous treatment, but when the time comes for the collection of these imposts the Tahsildars and zaptiehs remorselessly seize and sell the poor peasants' oxen and implements, their household stores of grain, their beds and bedding, and leave them to lie on the bare ground, without food or medicines? Shall we find any fair-minded man to say that there is no good cause for lamentation? How can we do otherwise than form such Secret Societies to deliberate on the steps we should adopt, when we cannot even find the means of bringing to the knowledge of the Sovereign the cruelties and oppression under which we suffer? Will not every complaint against an official necessarily remain without effect, so long as it can only be made to another official? Not even in the press has this unfortunate people liberty to bring its complaints to the hearing of the Sovereign and the civilized world, so that its hands and arms and tongue are alike tied. How long are they to remain so?

How can we fail to lament and deliberate means of redress when, even if the oppressed and miserable people complains of the oppression and injustice committed against it, owing to the detestable venality and corruption which have become universal amongst the generality of officials, its manifest rights are ignored and the culprits openly shielded and protected from justice? Can this be denied?

I should like to expatiate still more upon this matter, but, in order not to occupy the time of the Court, I will not mention the atrocious acts committed against this wretched and oppressed people during the last war, both in the European provinces and in Anatolia, nor the cruelties perpetrated by Sheikhs Djellat-ed-Din and Obeidullah and other tyrants, Aghas and petty Chieftains, which led to the insertion of Article LXI in the Treaty of Berlin. Nor will I speak of the atrocities committed even after that Treaty by the notorious Moussa Bey, which in these last few years have occupied the press and attracted the notice of the foreign Governments and the public, nor of the other acts of oppression which are even now being committed in Anatolia and in other districts. Those gave rise to the painful occurrences at Erzeroum, at Koum Kapou, and elsewhere. Can any one, therefore, imagine that the actually existing oppression and unfair treatment will not result in similar consequences?

But I will now deal with the cruelties which I myself and my companions have seen and suffered in our own persons in the course of this business. We have suffered imprisonment for this affair; but what a frightful and ghastly "imprisonment!" Did not every hour of those winter nights appear to each one of us a year?

Suppose you pay a visit to the Kaisarieh prison during one of those days or nights. What are those bitter, heartrending cries which resound in your ears, or those barbarous acts which meet your eyes? Which of them shall I describe? Shall it be the shrieks and cries for mercy of one of these poor wretches, delivered over into the merciless clutches of brutal ruffians, stripped naked on one of the coldest days of that bitterly severe winter (I declare, on my honour, that I speak without the least exaggeration), bound hand and foot while jugs full of water are poured over him and he is beaten with clubs upon the naked body?

Or shall it be the piteous lamentations of another unfortunate, who in an adjoining cell has been hanging by one foot for five or six hours with his head downwards, stripped naked like the first, while he is belaboured with thick clubs and submitted to all sorts of ill-usage, until he cries, "For God's sake, mercy! I am dying; I will say whatever you like"?

In another cell a third unfortunate, who has already undergone for several days all these tortures and sufferings, without giving the answers required of him, stripped naked and bound hand and foot, is having a hot iron skewer thrust up his —— until he shrieks out, "Rather thrust a knife into my chest and kill me at once, that I may escape from these torments."

A little farther on yet another poor fellow, reduced to the condition of a cripple from the tortures of all kinds endured during four or five days, is having the spout of an earthenware water-pot thrust up his anus, and is raising feeble and despairing moans to Heaven.

I know not which of them to describe. Well, the greater portion of these tortures were inflicted upon myself, and they made me say whatever was desired. I was taken into the presence of the Mutessarif, but when I began to relate the truth he ordered me to be taken back to the "charmer," saying, "He has not been brought to his senses yet." So they took me back. Finally, nothing was left to me but to make the declarations they desired to the "Juge d'Instruction," and I did so. I am prepared to prove these assertions.

As for appealing to the supreme authority and lodging complaints against these atrocities, according to the objection urged in the "Procureur Impérial's" speech, we had not the power even to drive away a bird. Would that be possible to us even to-day? Indeed, what result has ever been attained by complaints?

I have now come to the conclusion of my defence, but let me just briefly explain our objects. Our demand is for justice in the place of injustice, equality in the place of inequality, civilization in the place of barbarism.

We are the people, the community. The people is oppressed, and the sole cause of their oppression is the officials. All rights belong to the people, and the people is competent to protect its rights. We are the partizans of the people, of what communion soever. For us there are no differences of communion, ritual, or religion. We are of the religion of humanity.

The essence of our objects is to rescue the people from the grasp of oppression, and from the venality and corruption of the officials.

It is obvious that great questions like these can only be settled at the cost of many sacrifices, and we are perfectly willing to sacrifice ourselves to that end, but the Court and the Government must not deceive themselves with the idea that our imprisonment, our conviction and execution or condemnation to hard labour or confinement in a fortress, or our reclusion in a mad-house, will put an end to the question, for, with the advance of civilization, public opinion is becoming enlightened, and these sentiments are gradually spreading amongst the people, and our cause is gaining strength and importance.

Now, there is nothing in this action or in these ideas and opinions of ours that is hostile to the public interest. On the contrary, our object was to stop and prevent reprehensible acts which are in contravention of the existing laws; we were always amongst the partizans of justice, equity, and impartiality, and never amongst the authors of sedition, as has been fancied and imagined. This being as clear as daylight, I rely upon the Court's sense of justice to return a verdict of acquittal.

(Signed) KARO GHERTMANIAN.

May 29 (*June* 10), 1893.

N.B.—This defence was not permitted to be read at the trial, the accused being officially forbidden by the President of the Court.

Note.—Karo Ghertmanian, of Tellas, a young man of 23, was one of those condemned to death. He figures as No. 2 in the list of persons submitted to torture in the prison at Kaisarieh.

No. 162.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received August* 7.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 7, 1893, 12·20 P.M.

I AM informed that seven of the new batch of Armenians now under trial at Angora have been liberated.

The number of those still undergoing their trial is, I believe, seventeen.

No. 163.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 375.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 5, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton, reporting the execution of five of the Armenian prisoners. Mr. Newton, in his despatches Nos. 14 and 15, had reported that these men were accused of having murdered two postmen, two zaptiehs, and a carter, and stated that there did not seem any doubt as to their guilt.

Andon Ruchtoni appears in his evidence to have endeavoured to implicate the priest Daniel (Tanel) in some measure in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, August* 1, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of this morning as follows:—

"Five of the condemned Armenians executed this morning."

These men were hanged in one of the public squares before daybreak this morning. After the bodies had been hanging for some hours they were delivered to the Armenian community, and were accorded a decent burial.

I have already given details of the case of these five men in my despatches Nos. 14 and 15. There now remain in prison ten more on whom the extreme penalty was passed; this has been commuted to eight years' imprisonment.

The sentences of 5, 10, and 15 years on the remaining 21 prisoners has been reduced to 3, 5, and 8 years respectively.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 164.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 203.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 9, 1893.

STATEMENTS are current here that some Armenians are detained without cause in the prisons of St. Jean d'Acre, Tripoli in Barbary, Van, Rhode, and Konieh. It is also said that Dr. Garabed Pachaian, an Armenian physician, has been in prison at Erzinghian for about eleven months on a charge—said to be false—of having been implicated in a revolutionary movement.

I am aware of the difficulty of obtaining trustworthy information on these matters, but I shall be glad if you will send home such details as Her Majesty's Consular officers may be able to collect at the places I have mentioned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 165.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 206.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 349 of the 25th ultimo reporting your conversation with the Grand Vizier on the subject of the tortures alleged to have been

inflicted on certain Armenian prisoners, and I approve your communicating to His Highness the statements you have received on the subject in the manner you propose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 166.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, August 15, 1893, 10·30 A.M.*

I HEAR that an Armenian youth, who was condemned to death for murder some two years ago, was executed at Sivas on the 31st ultimo under very cruel circumstances.

I have made representations to the Grand Vizier on the matter.

No. 167.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 208.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 15, 1893.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 369 of the 2nd instant, reporting your conversation with the Grand Vizier relative to the manner in which the recent trials at Angora were conducted, and the alleged ill-treatment to which the prisoners had been subjected, and I approve the language which you held to his Highness as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 168.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 377.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 7, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Longworth in regard to Armenian affairs.

The telegram to which Mr. Longworth refers as having been dispatched by me relates to an inquiry I made of him in regard to some reported trouble at Amassia, which happily proved unfounded. I may observe that the assault which Dr. Jewett mentions as having been perpetrated on a young American lady near Amadia is engaging the most serious attention of the United States' Minister here. Mr. Tirrell informed me this morning that the Grand Vizier has given strict orders that the guilty parties should be arrested and sent for trial to Moosul, and that four men are already in custody and on their way to that place to undergo inquiry. Mr. Tirrell further said that the authorities had imprisoned all the inhabitants of the village, principally Nestorians, where the assault occurred, and that, though several had been released, a considerable number were still in the dungeons. These men, he felt confident, were perfectly innocent, as the assault had been committed by Kurds or soldiers, and not by Nestorians, a harmless and peaceable folk.

Mr. Tirrell intends, I believe, to procure the release of the Nestorians, but is fully determined that the guilty parties shall be brought to justice and punished.

The lady was rather severely beaten, and, as the United States' Minister remarked to the Grand Vizier, it would have been better to have shot thirty American men than to have assaulted one American woman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 168.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Trebizond, July 31, 1893.*

YOUR telegram of the 15th instant was answered by me on the 18th in the meaning that, according to the United States' Consul at Sivas, nothing unusual had occurred at Amassia.

I beg now to give the following extracts of two letters from Dr. Jewett, dated respectively Sivas, the 21st and 23rd July, alluding to this and to other reports on the condition of the interior within and beyond the Sivas Vilayet:—

"*July* 21.—I received your telegram inquiring what has happened at Amassia. I telegraphed to German Vice-Consul at Amassia making the same inquiry, and he replied nothing has happened, which message I sent to you. There was a rumour circulating about two weeks ago that a considerable number of Turks were 'up in arms' at Marsovan, but the rumour was not confirmed by any competent authority, and letters from Americans at Marsovan do not speak of any troubles there."

* * * * * *

"*July* 23.—I have heard through the French Vice-Consul, who is on his way to Moosul, that on the 17th instant a small band of robbers attacked the post near Marsovan. Three or four of the robbers were wounded and captured by the post escort. They proved to be Armenians, and are said to be members of the Armenian Committè. I do not remember whether I mentioned to you that an uneasy condition of affairs exists near Amadia. That is not, I suppose, in your Consular district. Very considerable hatred of the American missionaries is expressed by Turks, the Kaïmakam threatened to burn one of the Mission buildings, and an American young lady was assaulted at night, and quite seriously beaten by men who are thought by the missionaries to be Kurdish soldiers. I would like to know what British Consular district Amadia is in. I think it is about half-way between Moosul and Mardin."

* * * * * *

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 169.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 387.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 12, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of a despatch and of a letter which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton regarding the Armenian prisoners at Angora. Mr. Newton, your Lordship will observe, reiterates his opinion that the five Armenians who were recently executed for murder were guilty of the charges of which they were accused. However just it may be that premeditated murder should meet with the death penalty, I feel bound to remark that on more than one occasion the Grand Vizier impressed on me that His Majesty the Sultan had only on very exceptional and rare occasions given his sanction to an execution, and thereby gave me to understand that the death penalties would not be carried out in the present instances. It is of not infrequent occurrence here that those condemned to death have had that penalty reduced to comparatively short terms of imprisonment; and the mode in which the Angora trial was conducted does undoubtedly leave an uneasy feeling of doubt whether the guilt of the men was conclusively proved. Moreover, the haste with which the executions were carried out leaves on the mind the impression that the men were dispatched hurriedly before any representations could be made on their behalf.

The Sublime Porte is now busy in publishing the grounds on which the decisions of the Angora Tribunal were based, and is furnishing me daily with portions of the document as they are copied out. So soon as the copy is complete I will forward it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, August* 5, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that ten of the Armenian prisoners left here to-day by rail for Constantinople. These men are the remainder of those who were condemned to death, and whose sentences were recently commuted to eight years' imprisonment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, August* 5, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 1st instant.

As I mentioned, the execution of the five Armenians was not made known to the public until all was over. On the night of Sunday the men were told by the prison officials that they would be taken to Cæsarea on the following day. Immediately after being apprised to this effect, they were taken out of prison and put into carts, and conveyed directly to the square where the scaffold was erected, a few hundred yards from the prison. They were not aware of their impending execution until they saw the scaffold. With the assistance of the soldiers and police they were quickly dispatched.

As regards the guilt of these five men there does not seem any doubt. The charges of murder were plainly proved against them, and from the close attention I have given to the matter I have failed to notice any doubtful points that could tell in their favour. Their own admission of being together in certain places and under certain circumstances, and the evidence of Andon Rushtoni, who saw them on their return from a marauding expedition and heard them discussing their exploits, tends conclusively to their guilt [*sic*] (see despatch No. 15). The five or six murders they committed were done in cold blood, and without the slightest extenuation.

Justice has been administered with a firm hand, and if it could have been tempered with mercy the youth of the unfortunate men could only have been pleaded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 170.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 389.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 12, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, transmitting a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, respecting the treatment of the Yezidis in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 170.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Erzeroum, July* 28, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith duplicate copies of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Devey, reporting on the treatment of the Yezidis in Van Vilayet. The present attitude of the Ottoman Government towards this sect would seem to point to a fixed determination to make them adopt Islamism or leave the country, as many have already done, having fled to Russia and Persia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 170.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, July* 19, 1893.

THERE are in this district, as you may be aware, some fourteen villages inhabited by Yezids (numbering about 3,000 souls), lying round the mouth of the Bendehmahi River and between the Caza towns of Bergri and Serai.

These people use the Kurdish language and customs, and eight of their villages in the sub-district Karasu are treated by the authorities on the footing of "Ashiret." The Mudir, or Chief, recognized by the Local Government, is a certain Khatib, resident in Chibukli village.

When the movement for establishing a trained force of irregular cavalry was begun in these parts, it was decided and agreed to by the Yezids that they should also furnish a small contingent separately. It would appear also that Khatib assured the military authorities he would turn Moslem, but his people, almost without exception, remain firm in their belief.

Pressure has been exerted in many ways to induce Ismail Agha, of Yarenkaya village, the chief man of the tribe, and others to abandon their faith for that of Islam; they have been summoned to Van on various pretexts, and kept in confinement, but Ismail Agha is now released on bail.

You will remember that wherever a stray village or two of these unfortunate people is yet scattered about the country, they have been the object of bitter and constant persecution, and only last year forcible proselytizing was practised upon them in the neighbourhood of Mosul; they have no ecclesiastical or civil protector as other communities in Turkey, and no means of making their grievances even known, save by permission of the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 171.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 391.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 14, 1893.

WITH reference to Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 109 of the 27th March, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch, which I have received through Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, on the subject of the Nouri Effendi murder trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 171.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, July* 26, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Nouri Effendi murder trial has been brought to a close. Sentences passed are: on one of the brothers Shadvorian, found guilty as accessory before and after the deed, of penal servitude for life; and on three others of six years' imprisonment each. The remaining prisoners were acquitted, but have not yet been released.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 172.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 392.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 14, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves, reporting that a Petition has been sent to Constantinople by the principal Mussulman merchants and traders at Erzeroum, representing the insecure state of that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 172.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Erzeroum, August* 3, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that the principal Mussulman merchants and traders, to the number of twenty-seven, have addressed a strongly-worded telegram to the Imperial Palace at Constantinople, complaining of the insecure state of this province, which is rapidly bringing all business to a standstill and ruining the population. Copies of this telegram were also sent to the Grand Vizier and to the Minister of the Interior.

Cattle-raiding and brigandage are undoubtedly more prevalent than has been the case for many years past, and their increase is generally and rightly attributed to the lawlessness of the Kurds who have been enrolled in the new Hamidiyyé organization, and now refuse obedience to the civil authorities. But as the Hamidiyyé irregulars are regarded as enjoying the special favour of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and, under him, of the Mushir Zekki Pasha, commanding the forces in Kurdistan, no one as yet has ventured to report their misconduct to Constantinople. Now, however, that Turks as well as Christians are made to suffer by their depredations, it will be more difficult for the authorities to hush the matter up as heretofore; but it is characteristic that the petitioners in the present case have not ventured to name the Hamidiyyé Kurds as the culprits, but refer only to "Kurdish brigands" in general terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 173.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 393.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 14, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton, reporting the departure from Constantinople of the last batch of Armenian prisoners who were recently tried at Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, August* 9, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 5th instant.

I beg to inform you that the remainder of the Armenians who were recently tried have been sent to Constantinople. None who figured at the recent trial remain in Angora; the last batch left this morning.

The Armenians now remaining in the local prison are not charged with participating in the recent movement. Their trials are proceeding slowly.

I am in receipt of your telegram, and will keep you well informed of all that goes on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 174.

Consul Jago to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord, *Aleppo, August* 3, 1893.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 1, dated the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a list giving the names of the Armenian prisoners, twenty-nine in number, now confined in the gaol of Aleppo on charges of alleged sedition, with the sentences passed on them by the Criminal Court of Appeal here which tried them, and upon whose warrant they are detained.

They have not undergone torture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 174.

LIST of Names of, and Sentences passed upon, Armenian Prisoners confined in Aleppo Gaol on charges of alleged Sedition.

Name of Prisoner.	Date when condemned.	Sentence passed.
Bishop Garabet, of Zeitoun ..	April 1892	Imprisonment for life.
Bishop Neghoghos, of Furneos ..	March 1893	8 years' imprisonment.
Priest Deirghevond	April 1892	Death.
Schoolmaster Sinpat	" "	5 years' imprisonment
Sister Elizabet	February 1892	3 " "
Artin Lapagelian	March 1892	2 " "
Tavoos Mozyan	April 1892	5 " "
Azvadour Tozlian	" "	5 " "
Krikor Purlatian	" "	3 " "
Serkis Arsnaghian	" "	5 " "
Artin Kenpelian	" "	5 " "
Setruk Kenpelian	" "	5 " "
Ovanes Kenpelian	" "	5 " "
Assadour Kenpelian	" "	10 " "
Mnink Kenpelian	" "	5 " "
Boghos Tuftian	" "	8 " "
Serkis Boshgian	" "	5 " "
Panos Bosdanian	" "	5 " "
Cabots Haidudian	" "	10 " "
Gabriel Bosdanian	" "	8 " "
Vartan Martovian	" "	5 " "
Kevork Tchakurian	" "	8 " "
Michael Ogloulian	" "	5 " "
Serkis Arsessian	" "	5 " "
Dunuk Agop	" "	5 " "
Artin Candjian	" "	5 " "
Serkis Murdovassian	" "	5 " "
Carabet Bulbulian	" "	5 " "
Mighirditch Bulbulian	" "	8 " "

NOTE.—All the above prisoners were tried before the Criminal Court of Appeal of Aleppo, by order of the Sultan. No others are confined on charges of sedition.

Aleppo, August 3, 1893.

No. 175.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 215.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 21, 1893.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called at the Foreign Office on the 11th instant, and read a telegram from the Sultan's First Secretary to the following effect:—

"The Armenians, seeing that they are protected by the English Government and the English press, become more and more audacious, and commit innumerable misdeeds. This state of things produces a most deplorable impression upon the minds of the Mussulman population, and as this attitude of the British Government in favour of the Armenians (the number of whom does not exceed 1,000,000, and whose object, if it was realized, would be the fall of the Empire) is not in harmony with the ancient friendship of England for us, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan wonders whether this regrettable situation is to last much longer, or whether it will come to an end. Your Excellency will address these two questions to Her Majesty's Government, and will send me the replies."

Ilustem Pasha said that the above were the Sultan's own words, and requested that they should be submitted to me, and my answer communicated to him in due time.

On being asked in what way Her Majesty's Government could be said to have protected the Armenians, his Excellency referred to Sir E. Grey's answers in the House of Commons. It was pointed out to him that they referred exclusively to the mode of trial of the prisoners and the sentences passed on them.

His Excellency replied that the Sultan feared that the knowledge of the encouragement given in England to the Armenians, taken in connection with the outrages committed by them, might excite the Mussulman population to acts of retaliation, which would lead to a very serious state of affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 176.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 398.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 17, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a despatch and two private letters which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora respecting the Armenian prisoners awaiting their trial at that place. I have mentioned to the Grand Vizier the facts reported by Mr. Newton with reference to this subject.

I also have the honour to forward copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Longworth, reporting the execution at Sivas of an Armenian, the circumstances in connection with which I have likewise brought to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, July 19, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to further report as to the number of Armenians now in prison awaiting their trial.

In the local prison there are thirty-two, at Denek Maden thirteen, at Singurlan thirteen, and at Tchoroum five; in all sixty-three persons.

The men have been in prison some months, and the majority of them are ignorant of the charges against them. It is regrettable that these men, some of whom may be innocent, should have to lie in these miserable prisons for months before being tried.

I have, &c.

(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)

Dear Sir, *Angora, July 19, 1893.*

IN commenting further on the subject of my official despatch of this date, I have the honour to place before [*sic*] in detail the pitiable situation of the Armenians now awaiting their trial. The authorities informed me that the trial of these men would commence at once, but up to the present nothing has been done; as these men have been in prison five or six months, surely there has been time enough to prepare the charges against them, and put them on their trial. As I have already informed you, the majority of the prisoners awaiting their trial were originally arrested and charged with complicity in the recent revolutionary movement. The authorities plead pressure of work as the cause of delay. This may be true to a certain extent, but I have every reason to believe that the authorities have not sufficient evidence to convict on the charge of revolution. I am confirmed in this belief by the fact that the authorities have in some cases withdrawn the charges of revolution. It remains to be seen, if these men are not in the meantime liberated, what crime they will be charged with. I beg to call your especial attention to the case of the five men now in prison at Tchoroum. These men were arrested about six months ago for supposed complicity in the recent troubles. For about three months after their arrest their friends tried to bring the case before the local Court at Tchoroum; finding their efforts met with no success, they came to Angora to push the case before the authorities here. After waiting here for three months more, and spending about 30 liras in stamps, fees, telegrams, &c., the case of the five men stands as it did six months ago.

These men belong to the trading class, and in consequence of their confinement those who are dependent upon them for subsistence are now suffering much privation.

The action of the authorities is much to be deplored for many reasons; instead of inquiring into the charges against these men they are put off from day to day, month to month, until the poor fellows have no heart or energy left in them.

In some districts the Armenians form the nucleus of the trading community, and these aggressive measures are consequently causing a stagnation of business, which will make itself felt in the Government revenue returns, and also destroy that confidence in business relations between Christian and Turk which existed previous to these troubles.

Armenian merchants tell me that business has fallen off considerably. The feeling of distrust created will take some time to efface.

There may be openly some relaxation in the oppressive measures towards the Armenians, but the action of the authorities in keeping these poor fellows in prison without a trial, and who cannot help themselves, is worse even than open oppression.

The filth and dirt in the crowded prisons is beyond description, and during this dreadfully hot weather I should not be surprised if an epidemic attended with loss of life should be the result.

I have, &c.

(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 176.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)

Dear Sir, *Angora, August 10, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 9th instant, and am in receipt of your private lines of the 4th instant.

You inform me that my despatch of the 19th ultimo has not reached you. I therefore inclose a copy, and also of a private letter sent under same cover. My private letter of the 14th July and the inclosed copies, and also my subsequent despatches, will have anticipated your inquiries. I may, however, mention that the men whose trials are now slowly proceeding belong to the shop-keeping or trading class, and are not charged with political offences, with one exception only, a certain Dikran Gulbenkian, who was at one time a teacher in the American College at Cæsarea. He was arrested at Samsoon some months ago, and I am informed by the authorities that

he was one of the initiators of the recent movement. I mentioned to the Vali the case of this poor fellow, who had been in prison for months without a trial. His Excellency informed me that his trial would not be delayed longer than was necessary.

To-morrow, if possible, I will give you the exact position of the trials of the remaining prisoners. These men have been undergoing private examination for several days, and I am not able to state what progress has been made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 176.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Trebizond, August* 6, 1893.

THE following extract of a letter, dated the 29th July, from Dr. Jewett, at Sivas, informs us of an attempted assassination of an Armenian at Marsovan, and the execution of an Armenian at Sivas:—

"I wrote to you last Sunday of a robbery which was reported to have been attempted near Marsovan by members of the Commità. I have heard nothing about it. I am told on good authority that about seven to ten days ago a spy was to be shot by the Commità in Marsovan. He was shot at, and the murderers thinking him dead left him lying on the ground. I understand, however, he was not even wounded. As soon as his assassins were out of sight he went to the police and gave their names. The men were arrested, but deny everything.

"An Armenian, Nathan of Divrik, was hung here on Monday last. As near as I can learn the facts of his case, they are about as follows: 'Two years ago he is said to have gone, in company with another young man, to a village near Divrik, either to rob a house, or, others say, to kill a spy living there. Some sort of a fight occurred at the house, and Nathan's companion received a wound from which he died some two or three months later. Seditious papers were found in the possession of Nathan. He was convicted of having murdered his companion. He protested his innocence, and claimed he had nothing to do with the affair. I think the general belief is that he did accompany the man who was wounded. The manner of his execution seems to me very improper, even admitting the fact that he was guilty of manslaughter. The officials who performed the ceremony attended a dinner, and it is said got quite intoxicated. About 11 o'clock at night they went to the boy and told him they were going to send him to Tokat. They took him to the gallows. He was in the last stages of consumption, and very weak. When he saw what was going to be done with him, he asked for a priest. His request was denied. A rope, not greased, was put around his neck while he stood on the ground, and he was then hauled up. He struggled for half-an-hour. The thing was done secretly, and no Armenians were present. Those present jeered and laughed. The general feeling is that he was hung for political reasons, and that the accusation of murder was only an excuse.'

"The Vali is still away. He may not return to this post. I have heard that Siree Pasha, of Mosul or Mardin, will be in his place, but do not know how true it is."

* * * * * *

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 177.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 218.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 398 of the 17th instant, inclosing Reports from the British Vice-Consul at Angora relative to the continued detention without trial of a number of Armenians at that place, and the execution of an Armenian youth at Sivas, and I approve your having brought these matters to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 178.

Medical Report on the Armenian Prisoners at Angora.—(Communicated by Rustem Pasha, September 4, 1893.)

NOUS soussignés docteurs en médecine de la Faculté de Constantinople déclarons que le nombre des détenus dans la prison du Vilayet d'Angora touchant la question Arménienne depuis le 1er Février, 1893, jusqu'au 1er Juin de la même année a été, outre les détenus existant avant, d'à peu près 400.

Nommés sur l'ordre de son Excellence Abeddin Pacha, Gouverneur-Général et du Procureur-Général Arif Bey, comme médecins de la susdite prison, pour surveiller l'état de santé des détenus en général et des prisonniers Arméniens en particulier et de les traiter consciencieusement, nous avons journellement, matin et soir, visité toutes les salles de la prison en examinant les malades et nous nous sommes appliqué à faire observer les lois de l'hygiène ponctuellement et à procurer à chacun des détenus les médicaments appropriés, et grâce au zèle et à l'assiduité que nous avons montrés dans cette circonstance personne parmi les détenus n'a eu occasion de se plaindre, au contraire, nous avons tâché de nous conformer à la haute volonté de notre juste et bien-aimé Souverain, et de cette manière nous avons réussi à les voir formuler des prières chaleureuses pour la prospérité et la longue vie de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Parmi les prisonniers Arméniens à l'exception d'un seul cas de maladie organique chronique du cœur qui a abouti à la mort naturelle personne autre n'a été affecté d'une maladie contagieuse, et sous les hauts auspices de Sa Majesté Impériale tous se portent à merveille, et s'il y a eu parmi eux des maladies (saisonnières) leurs noms ainsi que les médicaments appropriés qui leur ont été fournis ainsi que le mode d'administration ont été minutieusement enregistrés un à un dans le registre de la pharmacie municipale; en outre, nous avons tâché de garder le Gouverneur-Général au courant de l'état sanitaire de ces prisonniers et d'autres détails les concernant par nos rapports journaliers et semestriels.

Un Rapport spécial a été présenté au sujet de l'individu qui a succombé à la maladie du cœur précitée.

En réponse aux questions faites à chacun des prisonniers, au cours de nos examens journaliers, demandant s'ils ont des plaintes à formuler contre le service pénitentiaire, tous ont déclaré maintes fois que, grâce à Sa Majesté Impériale, ils n'avaient à se plaindre de rien, pas même du personnel de la prison, et ils ont au contraire exprimé leur gratitude et leur bon vouloir envers lui pour sa conduite humaine.

Nous avons entendus plusieurs fois de nos propres oreilles ces déclarations des prisonniers Arméniens.

Aujourd'hui le reste de ces prisonniers, dont le nombre monte à quarante, est soumis comme d'ordinaire avec les autres à notre visite et ils sont traités consciencieusement toutes les fois qu'ils ont recours à nous.

Par conséquent non seulement ils n'ont pas de sujets de plainte, mais ils ont tous au contraire fait des vœux pour la prolongation des jours et la prospérité de notre magnanissime et illustre Souverain.

En foi de quoi nous délivrons le présent Rapport pour valoir auprès de qui de droit.

Fait à Angora, le 7 Août, 1893.

(Signé) Dr. BONKOWSKY, *Inspecteur.*
Dr. S. HERVICH, *Médecin municipal.*
Dr. BASSILAKI.

No. 179.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 233 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 4, 1893.

WITH reference to your despatches Nos. 349 of the 25th July and 404 of the 25th ultimo, relative to the alleged torture of Armenian prisoners, I transmit to you a copy of a medical Report communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador to-day,* according to which the Armenians detained in prison at Angora have been well treated.

* No 178.

Rustem Pasha's attention was called to the fact that the Report did not refer to the prisoners at Cæsarea, but his Excellency stated that they were included in it as they had all been removed to the prison at Angora.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 180.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 403.)
My Lord,

Therapia, August 25, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 398 of the 17th instant on the subject of Armenian prisoners, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Angora respecting certain men in prison at that place.

I am informed that a telegram has been received from the Vali of Angora, dated the 8th (20th) instant, in reply to inquiries made by the Grand Vizier, stating that instructions have been given for the Armenians who are imprisoned at Denek Maden, in the Angora Vilayet, to be brought to trial as soon as possible.

It is also stated that the Armenians of Sanguri who are in custody are charged with criminal offences, one of them being shown to have stolen the sacred vessels from a church.

With regard to Dikran Gulburkian, referred to in Mr. Newton's letter of the 10th August, copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in my above-mentioned despatch, it is stated that nothing is known concerning his imprisonment, but that information has been asked for from Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 180.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

Angora, August 12, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 9th instant, and acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant.

My missing despatch of the 19th July (of which I forwarded a copy on the 10th) contains the desired information respecting the imprisoned Armenians here. Also my despatches of the 5th, 9th, and 10th instant respectively, which crossed your letter, contain further information asked for.

With regard to the case of the eight men (see my despatch of the 28th July) [*sic*]. As to the twelve men, the authorities inform me they are not charged with political offences. They were arrested some months ago on a charge of tobacco smuggling. They were caught red-handed in a skirmish with the zaptiehs and Coldjis, after having shot a villager and three horses belonging to the Coldjis.

I have had an opportunity of corroborating the above from some relatives of the imprisoned men. From a brother of one of the men I elicited that four of the twelve were caught with tobacco in their possession, and were armed for the purpose of protecting it. He is, however, reticent about the skirmish and shooting. The eight others are charged with being accomplices.

The gravity of their offence is a light one, but, at the same time, it is nevertheless a criminal offence against the State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 181.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 404.)
My Lord,

Therapia, August 25, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 349 of the 25th July on the subject of the treatment of Armenian prisoners, I have received a private letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that, inquiries having been made into the matter, the Ottoman authorities at Angora affirm that the current reports respecting the ill-usage of the prisoners are entirely without foundation, they having been uniformly treated with kindness and consideration. The health of the prisoners, his Excellency explains, is watched over by competent doctors, and only one death, which was heart disease, has been registered.

Saïd Pasha further states that the prisoners themselves have been touched by the kindness shown towards them, that no complaint of any ill-treatment was brought to the Governor-General's ears when visiting Cæsarea, the principal seat of the alleged ill-practices, though the Armenian Bishop and Notables, as well as the missionaries, had free access to him; while the English Consular officer at Angora fully recognizes the kindness displayed by the Ottoman authorities towards those in custody.

Saïd Pasha declares the statements made by some of the prisoners, that confessions had been wrung from them by torture, to be likewise false, and made with the object of nullifying their own confessions, and of enlisting the sympathy of Europe in their behalf.

His Excellency concludes by requesting my good offices in contradicting the false statements which are current; or should Her Majesty's Embassy fail to be convinced by this denial of the Ottoman Government, that further proofs at least may be produced in support of such allegations.

I scarcely think it is worth while pursuing the matter further, the Porte, as I anticipated, meeting with a flat denial the detailed accounts furnished to it of the alleged ill-treatment, while endeavouring to show that the prisoners are rather grateful than otherwise at being kept in custody.

I do not believe that any very serious cases of ill-treatment have occurred at Angora, nor has any complaint been made to the Porte as to any having occurred at that place. It would be difficult to give the further proofs desired by the Sublime Porte without disclosing names, and I would therefore suggest that the matter be allowed to drop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 182.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 405.)
My Lord,

Therapia, August 25, 1893.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 159 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received through Mr. Consul Graves on the subject of the murder of Armenians at Shattakh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir,

Van, August 2, 1893.

ANOTHER sad case of murder has just occurred near Shattakh.

Four Armenians of that town went to purchase wood from the Miran "Ashiret" in the mountains. A Kurdish member of the local "Idareh Medjliss" was with them for the advantage of his company. It appears that they met a party of Kurds

on the road, and on parting were fired upon, and four Armenians killed. It is stated that Shakir of Norduz was among the assassins, and Abraham one of the killed. Both these persons were mentioned by name in my despatch No. 27 of 1891.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 183.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 407.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 398 of the 17th instant, I am informed that, in reply to inquiries made by the Grand Vizier, the Vali of Angora has reported that several Armenians are in prison at Soungourlou, charged with having violated the wife of a military man, and that orders have been given for the trial of three Armenians in prison at Tchoroum on a charge of murder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 184.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 408.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1893.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 163 of the 15th and my despatch No. 398 of the 17th instant respecting the execution of an Armenian at Sivas under alleged cruel circumstances, I have the honour to report that the Grand Vizier has received a reply from the Vali of Sivas, stating that just before the execution the prisoner was interrogated in the presence of the officials of the vilayet, in order to ascertain whether he had any communication to make, and that he replied, "Nothing."

Upon this the Imperial Firman was carried out, but the Vali denies that any ill-treatment or torture was inflicted on him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 185.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 409.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which has reached me from the Archbishops of Zeitoun and Fernoos, now in prison at Aleppo, the former sentenced to imprisonment for life, the latter to a term of eight years, imploring the intervention of Her Majesty's Embassy on their own behalf and that of their fellow sufferers.

I propose to speak unofficially to the Grand Vizier on the subject, and see whether there is any hope of obtaining some mitigation of the sentences passed on the two prelates and their companions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 185.

The Archbishops of Zeitoun and Fernoos to Sir A. Nicolson.

Excellence, *En prison d'Alep, le 29 Juillet,* 1893.

NOUS ne devons la hardiesse de vous adresser la présente qu'aux encouragements que sa Hautesse Mr. Gladstone a voulu bien nous accorder par ses lettres de réponses en date du 6 et du 24 Octobre, 1892, par lesquelles il nous avait annoncé que l'arrangement de notre question était recommandé à M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople.

Vu que notre Grand Seigneur le Sultan se plaît à jeter au coin d'oubli le Ilam de notre condamnation devenue enfin décisive par la confirmation de la Cour de Cassation—si l'on doit ajouter foi aux déclarations tant de fois répétées officiellement—sans que sa clémence infinie daigne gracier des criminels politiques tels que nous ni que sa justice Impériale veuille envoyer à Zeythoun une Commission Mixte d'Enquête;

Vu que nous, vingt-neuf Chrétiens, condamnés cruellement à la mort, à perpétuité dans une enceinte fortifiée et à l'imprisonnement; jetés, depuis trois ans au fond du cachot infernal d'Alep, sommes constraints de porter l'insupportable fardeau d'une vie pire que la mort; et que malgré son intention révélée absolument pour se venger de nous, en nous supprimant un à un, comme nos codétenus au nombre de huit, martyrisés et succomber sous les inimaginables tortures de ce véritable enfer d'Arabistan, dans le cours de ces trois ans de tourments, la Sublime Porte ose encore tromper, grâce à un langage mielleux de diplomatie Ottomane, toutes le Puissances Européennes Signataires de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, même le très puissant et le généreux Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, l'unique protecteur des Chrétiens opprimés et soulfrants;

Vu qu'un Iradé est lancé ces jours-ci accordant une amnistie spéciale aux Arméniens de Zeythoun au nombre de vingt, qui malgré qu'ils sont avec nous condamnés dans le même Ilam à la mort et à la perpétuité dans une forteresse, et malgré que nous soumes tous emprisonnés à la place de ces fuyards, grâce à l'importance que leur donnent les montagnes inaccessibles, au sein desquelles ces condamnés dernièrement graciés étaient réfugiés, jouissent aujourd'hui d'une parfaite liberté, tandis qu'une foule de familles opprimées, femmes, enfants, perès et mères, livrés tous aux cruautés de nos oppresseurs, attendent en [?], d'un moment à l'autre, l'heure de notre délivrance!

Vu qu'un tel Iradé, loin d'être un Iradé de clémence Impériale du Padichah, ne prouve que la faiblesse pitoyable des autorités locales en présence de quelques fuyards capables de menacer la prétendue sécurité du pays non moins qu'une politique satanique, que la Sublime Porte est obligée souvent de se servir pour dorer les yeux de la méconfente nation privée de tous ses droits sacrés;

Vu enfin que, à la vue de cette ridicule conduite de la Sublime Porte, et vis-à-vis de l'horrible situation actuelle à la proie de laquelle, nous tous sujets persécutés du Pygmalion moderne de l'Empire Ottoman, gémissons sans que nos plaintes déchirantes soient entendues, votre Excellence ne pourra plus rester indifférentes à tant d'iniquités et de bizarreries;

Nous croyons, Excellence, avoir la liberté de supplier et d'implorer votre protection humaine, au nom du Christianisme persécuté, de l'honneur et de la liberté violés, au sujet d'exercer sur la Sublime Porte la pression digne de la généreuse Angleterre (dont Zeythoun est encore fier d'avoir joui des effets salutaires, quand, il y a quinze ans, ses enfants prisonniers au nombre de 400 ont été mis en liberté), grâce à laquelle, MM. les pasteurs Toumaïan and Kaïnian respirent aujourd'hui le souffle sacré de la vie au sein maternel de l'Angleterre, mère-patrie de la liberté et berceau de la civilisation Chrétienne!

Permettez-nous donc, Excellence, de considérer d'avance en votre personne le glorieux libérateur de Zeythoun, dont les montagnes et les vallées seront heureuses de répéter de génération en génération les mâles accents d'une gratitude profonde envers le plus haut Gouvernement et de Sa Majesté Britannique, qui daigne déployer ses ailes de protection sur une nation souffrante telle que la nôtre.

Que notre Seigneur Rédempteur exance à nos vœux fervents et à nos souhaits ardents en accordant à votre Excellence des jours longs et heureux, pour la gloire de l'Angleterre, pour la protection du Christianisme oppressé et pour le salut de la captive Arménie!

Veuillez, Excellence, accepter les gages les plus sincères de la plus profonde reconnaissance des malheureux serviteurs de Jésus-Christ notre Seigneur.

En attendant, nous sommes, &c.

(De la part des 29 prisonniers de Zeythoun),

(Cachet) GARABED, *Archevêque de Zeythoun.*

(Cachet) NICOGHOS, *Archevêque de Fernouz.*

No. 186.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 411. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a Report addressed to the Council of the Public Debt by their agent at Erzeroum, which has been confidentially communicated to me by Mr. Vincent Caillard. The Report gives an interesting picture of the state of terrorism exercised by the notorious Hamidieh regiments in the Vilayet of Erzeroum. Mr. Consul Graves, in a private letter to me, dated the 9th instant, also alludes to the attack on the village of Karatchoban by the Kurdish cavalry, but states that he is waiting for further details before reporting on the matter officially.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 186.

M. Sartiyuski to the Council of the Public Debt.

M. le Directeur-Général, *Erzeroum, le 31 Juillet (12 Août), 1893.*

PAR ma dépêche du 27 Juillet (8 Août), 1893, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous informer que j'ai quitté le Mudirieh de Kirmizi pour me rendre à Erzeroum.

Aujourd'hui, je m'empresse de vous exposer en détails les faits qui se sont passés pendant la journée du 23 Juillet courant, la situation de la région que je devais contrôler cette année-ci, région dans laquelle se trouvent nos salines de Kyrmizi, Ak, Hassan-Pacha, Muzghian, Hamour, et Djanik, les motifs pour lesquels je me suis vu forcé de quitter mon poste pour me rendre à Erzeroum et les démarches que j'ai faites auprès des autorités civiles et militaires.

Dès l'arrivée du printemps, d'après des informations bien fondées, des enlèvements, des attaques contre des voyageurs, des pillages commençaient à se pratiquer de la part des Kurdes: comme cela n'était pas extraordinaire pour le pays, on n'en a pas fait grand cas. Malheureusement depuis presque deux mois, les choses ont changées d'aspect et nous fûmes témoins d'une situation des plus déplorables. Des attaques, des véritables batailles, des villages entiers en état de siège, des morts et des blessés chaque jour, faits dont une partie j'ai relaté dans ma lettre du 30 Juin (12 Juillet), 1893.

D'après mes informations, on m'affirmait que le Vilayet d'Erzeroum averti de cette situation, aurait pris les mesures nécessaires pour rétablir l'ordre. Ainsi l'Alay Bey, accompagné de quatre-vingts gendarmes, se mit à la poursuite de ces brigands. Mais c'est à partir de ce jour que les choses se sont empirées; les "Hamidiés" se groupant par bandes de 300, 400, et 500 cavaliers, et commettant tous les jours des atrocités. Ainsi, le 12 (24) Juillet, 1893, m'étant rendu à la saline de Hassan-Pacha pour y contrôler le service, avec notre Mudir, Hidayet Effi, nous avons manqué d'être victimes des balles lancées par les Kurdes contre un petit nombre (détachements) de cavalerie régulière. Le 23 Juillet (1 Août), dès le matin, un certain nombre d'Hamidiés sont venus attaquer le village de Karatchoban, distant d'une heure seulement de notre saline de Kyrmizi, et dans l'espace de quelques heures seulement, ils ont tué deux femmes, quatre enfants, un homme, et ont blessé plus de dix encore, tout en enlevant 970 moutons, et plus de 200 bœufs.

Pendant cette bataille, le Caïmakan de Hinis se trouvait au village de Guvendik, distant d'une demi-heure du premier, sans pouvoir prêter main-forte, n'étant accompagné que d'une dizaine de gendarmes seulement. L'Alay Bey, avec ses quatre-vingts hommes poursuivant deux Kurdes, a dû abandonner une onebachi mort sur le champ, et laisser les deux Kurdes s'enfuir. Tous ces faits ne faisaient que nous menacer et à baisser sensiblement nos ventes; nos clients ayant été plusieurs fois dévalisés et personne des environs n'osant quitter son village. Malheureusement la hardiesse a été poussée à son comble; ces brigands ayant eu l'audace de venir nous attaquer dans notre saline de Muzghian. Ainsi, dans la journée du 23 Juillet, m'étant rendu à la saline de Muzghian pour mettre en fonctions la nouvelle bascule Tricon, cinq cavaliers Kurdes Hamidiés accompagnés de leurs domestiques, du Vilayet de Bitlis, Caza Vartoli et du village Amir (le Chef se nommait Youssouf Mohamed Mahmoud Zadé) sont venus acheter du sel. Au commencement ils n'ont pas voulu recevoir du sel au moyen de cette bascule, mais leur ayant fait comprendre sa justesse, ils se sont consentis à remplir leurs sacs. Ils avaient avec eux onze bœufs et j'ai remarqué que le sel qu'ils ont acheté devait être chargé sur huit seulement.

L'attitude des susdits cavaliers, ainsi que les chicanes faites sur un drôle de ton à propos des bascules m'ont fait comprendre que leurs intentions étaient de faire un scandale, et j'en ai fait part aussi à notre Mémour. Ainsi, une fois leur theskéré écrit, le Mémour le leur donna, mais ils n'ont pas voulu l'accepter en disant qu'un pareil morceau de papier nous est bien inutile. Sur ce, je leur ai dit qu'on pourrait les attraper, et s'ils n'étaient pas munis d'un theskéré on les aurait considérés comme voleurs, mais ils m'ont répondu qu'ils se moquaient de nos coldjis. Après ceci, un d'entre eux m'a dit: "Prenez ce Medjidié et donnez-moi 100 oeques de sel." Au commencement, j'ai cru qu'il plaisantait, mais après il m'a fait comprendre qu'il me donnait cet argent comme pourboire. Ces cinq cavaliers ayant compris qu'ils n'arriveraient pas par cette voie, ils ont dû employer la force. Ainsi, un d'entre eux se mit sur son cheval et se postant en face de moi tout en me présentant son fusil me dit: "Veux-tu me donner ces 100 oeques de sel ou non?" Mon devoir était de refuser. Alors je leur ai demandé s'ils n'avaient pas peur du Gouvernement et des autorités et même du bon Dieu, mais bien froidement ils m'ont répondu que de personne dans ce monde ils n'avaient peur. Pendant cet intervalle, ce même cavalier alla demander à notre chef saulnier de quelle religion suis-je; "jure moi s'il est Arménien je le brûle à l'instant." Notre chef saulnier qui est aussi Chrétien lui a dit que dernièrement j'arrivais de Constantinople et que je m'appelais Mehmed Effendi. Après cinq minutes, ce même cavalier se posta devant moi, tout en s'éloignant un petit peu, et ayant chargé cette fois son fusil m'a dit pour la dernière fois: "Veux-tu me donner ces 100 oeques ou non?" Les deux seyars coldjis qui m'avaient accompagné jusque dans cette saline ayant été envoyés par moi dans quelques sources salées pour faire disparaître les carrés que les habitants des villages environnants creusent pour avoir du sel, il n'y avait avec moi en ce moment que le Mémour et les deux coldjis piadés, de cette saline, sans armes et naturellement nous nous sommes vus forcés de céder. Une fois un sac rempli, ils ont fait apporter un autre et ils auraient enlevé tout le sel qui se trouvait dans notre saline s'ils avaient avec eux assez d'animaux pour le faire transporter. Non contents de cette usurpation forcée, ils ont continué leurs menaces en jurant que partout où ils me trouveraient ils m'enlèveraient la vie et que le soir même ils reviendraient pour mettre le feu dans notre mémourieh. Notre personnel déjà effrayé a été beaucoup plus au désespoir, et il me demandait de le garantir. Tous les délits et crimes commis par ces derniers temps m'ayant donné la conviction qu'ils étaient des gens capables à faire tout, la seule précaution que j'avais à prendre pour le moment, était de me rendre au village de Youssouf Agha (distant d'une demi-heure de Muzghian) homme influent et honnête dont, pour notre service, j'avais gagné l'amitié—pour le mettre au courant des faits qui se sont passés dans la journée et le prier en même temps de nous fournir son concours au cas échéant. Il m'a répondu d'être au courant de l'affaire et m'a affirmé que la personne directement avisée était moi et il m'a conseillé de ne pas quitter son village pendant la nuit. Est-ce parce qu'ils m'ont vu partir de suite de la saline et entendu le bruit que j'ai fait exprès répandre que je m'en allais pour les faire poursuivre et pour avoir du renfort, aucun accident ne s'est produit pendant la nuit. Le lendemain dans l'après-midi, je regagnais mon siège où j'ai fait part au Mudir de l'accident qui m'est arrivé la veille. Le jour suivant notre Mudirieh par télégramme a averti le nazaret d'Erzeroum de cet accident et en même temps nous avons adressé au Caïmakamlik de Vartoli de forcer ces individus à verser 200 piastres comme amende due au 200 oeques de sel enlevées par force. Dans ce Mudirieh aussi j'ai vu la même

peur de la part de notre personnel et tous ont commencé à me dire qu'ils sont prêts à donner leur démission. J'ai fait tout mon possible pour les encourager, et pour prévenir un coup pareil j'ai dû immédiatement me rendre à Erzeroum en leur promettant que je retournerai avec une grande escorte.

Mon devoir était de vous avertir par voie de télégramme et attendre vos ordres; néanmoins comme il y allait de ma vie et que nous étions tous menacés, et que l'attitude des employés était aussi très menaçante, j'ai jugé de me rendre immédiatement à Erzeroum pour exposer les faits au Vali, lui montrer le danger de la situation et lui demander une forte escorte tant pour moi que pour nos salines.

Le second jour donc de mon arrivée, accompagné de notre Nazir Krikor Effendi, nous nous sommes rendus au Vali où le Nazir et moi nous lui avons expliqué en détails tous les faits. Je lui ai fait comprendre qu'une escorte de dix cavaliers armés m'était nécessaire pour pouvoir entreprendre mes tournées et pour venir en aide, au cas échéant, si un accident serait produit dans une de nos salines. Sa réponse était qu'il ne pouvait pas me donner cette escorte demandée vu qu'il ne possédait pour le moment que deux zaptiés et que les choses se passeraient ainsi pour cette année. J'espérais avoir une autre réponse de la part de son Excellence, mais voilà, M. le Directeur-Général, le fruit de nos démarches.

Me voyant donc ainsi dépourvu de toute garantie, je n'ai pas pu quitter Erzeroum, d'abord pour moi-même et ensuite craignant que les employés des salines auraient tenu leur parole lorsqu'ils m'auraient vu retourner sans les garanties promises.

Je ne doute nullement, M. le Directeur-Général, que vous prendrez en considération le sérieux et en même temps tout à fait extraordinaire [?] de notre situation d'ici, vous jugerez sur les mesures que nous devons prendre, le Nazir et moi, malgré toute notre bonne volonté en plusieurs conseils que nous avons tenus, n'ayant pu aboutir à prendre aucune décision rationnelle, et je vous prie de me télégraphier sur ce que j'aurais à faire pour ne pas perdre mon temps inutilement à Erzeroum.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SARTYNSKI.

No. 187.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 412.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1893.*

ON the 19th instant I received a telegram, signed by Sir Richard Temple and other Members of the House of Commons, praying for His Majesty's clemency on behalf of some of the Armenian prisoners, who had been sent to the capital from Angora.

I forwarded a copy of the telegram to the Grand Vizier, with no other remark than that I was unaware whether the approaching anniversary of the Sultan would be taken as an opportunity of pardoning some of the political prisoners at present under detention.

The next day his Highness sent me his Secretary to learn some further details as to the names and cases of those in whose behalf Sir Richard Temple was intervening. I gave the Secretary such information as was at my disposal, and he promised to submit it without delay to his Chief, as there was a meeting of the Cabinet that afternoon. I told the Secretary that I should be grateful if he would communicate privately to the Grand Vizier my personal opinion that the simplest method would be, without entering into the various degrees of innocence or guilt of each individual, to liberate the whole batch of prisoners, and expel them the country.

The Secretary of the Grand Vizier left me under the impression that, in any case, some of the prisoners would be recommended by his Highness for the exercise of the Imperial clemency.

Having been detained at home for the last week owing to indisposition, I have been unable personally to see his Highness, but, from what I learn indirectly, none of the Ministers are much inclined to take the initiative in suggesting to His Majesty further mitigations of the sentences. The Grand Vizier remarked to one of the

Embassy Dragomans that the conduct of Messrs. Thoumayan and Kayayan and their friends had not been of such a nature as to encourage the Sultan or the Turkish Government to act generously towards the other prisoners, who were, in his opinion, undoubtedly guilty of sedition.

It cannot be denied that the outspoken attacks and the charges of torture brought against the Turkish Government, apparently chiefly on the statements of the two released Professors, have greatly irritated the Sultan and the Sublime Porte, and will not predispose them in favour of those who still remain in custody.

The publication of the *procès-verbaux* is not yet finished, but I will take an early opportunity of speaking to the Grand Vizier in regard to the possible release of some of the prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 188.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 416.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 30, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 403 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch and of two private letters from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton, respecting the trial of Dikran Gulbenkian, and giving details respecting other prisoners at Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, August 22, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the trial of Dikran Gulbenkian took place yesterday.

The charges against him are that he, some two-and-a-half years ago, in company with Artin Thoumaian, first initiated the Armenian movement.

In his examination he admitted being a member at the time mentioned, but finding later on that the opinions of some of the members of the Society were of a revolutionary nature, he withdrew from the Society, and has not since taken any part in the affair.

Sentence will probably be delivered to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, August 22, 1893.*

I BEG to add further particulars to my official despatch of this date, respecting the case of Dikran Gulbenkian.

The evidence tendered by the prosecution is that he was known, in company with Artin Thoumaian and others, as one of the first to initiate this movement.

A letter, written by his brother at Marsovan, and addressed to him at Samsoun, was produced in Court. This letter treated of the commission business in which he was engaged. In this same letter were the letters M. V. D. (Mim. vao. dal. in Turkish), and the writer (his brother) asked him to keep the matter, these three letters referred to, secret.

No further evidence was brought forward to prove his connection with the movement of a recent date. The only proofs of his being a member of the Society, which was then in its infancy, date two-and-a-half years ago.

In his defence he stated that at the time mentioned he, at the instance of Artin Thoumaian, joined the movement. On making further inquiries into the objects of the movement, and finding they tended in a revolutionary direction, he at once severed his connection with it. He was a member for a short period only, and since that time has not taken any part at all in the affairs of the Society.

His explanation of the letters M. V. D. are that another party was engaged in opposition to him in the commission business, and in case his correspondence should fall into another's hands, these letters were used to keep his business affairs secret. Their meaning was known to himself and brother, and referred solely to commercial matters, which he explained to the Court.

Although being a member of the Society two-and-a-half years ago, nothing has been proved that he or any of the members at that time committed any acts contrary to the law.

Since the Society was first initiated, and after the withdrawal of Gulbenkian from it, its objects and aims became more advanced, and latterly partook of a revolutionary nature. There does not seem anything complicated or of a doubtful nature in this case, the whole onus rests upon his being a member at the time mentioned, and if this should be sufficient grounds for a conviction, I leave you to judge. Taking into consideration the extreme lightness of the offence, if it is an offence, it would not be unduly stretching the prerogative of mercy if he was acquitted.

Technically speaking, he may, in the eye of the law, be guilty, but morally it cannot be said so, as nothing has been proved that he has broken the law.

It is to be hoped this poor fellow's case will be brought to the notice of the central authorities; it would be an injustice to sentence him to a term of imprisonment for so trivial a matter. He has already been in prison five months.

He is 25 years of age, of respectable social position, and well educated, speaking English and French and the languages of the country.

The Judges are the same who presided at the recent trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

P.S.—Since writing the above Gulbenkian has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

T. N.

Inclosure 3 in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Angora, August* 22, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the number of Armenians in the local prison.

Since the recently condemned prisoners were sent to Constantinople, some others who have not been publicly tried have been released and sent to their homes. Two others from Denek-Maden have been sent back to that place to take their trial there for political offences.

There remains besides Gulbenkian, thirteen others whose trial has not yet taken place (see my despatch No. 29, in which I mentioned 12, this should be 13).

Four of these prisoners are charged with tobacco smuggling and resisting the authorities, nine are charged with receiving them in their houses; these latter will probably be discharged, or a light sentence passed upon them. Except at Denek-Maden there are no others in prison charged with political offences. In some of the other sandjaks of the province there are other Armenians imprisoned, but not for political offences. In my despatch of the 19th July I gave the number in prison; some of these have been released, others awaiting their trial. I have asked the local authorities for reliable figures as to the number in prison, but they are unable to furnish me with them at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 189.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 418.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 30, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 392 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves, reporting that a further Petition has been addressed to the Sultan by the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of the Caza of Toprak Kaleh, in the Sandjak of Bayazid, complaining of the depredations of the neighbouring Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Erzeroum, August* 18, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that another Petition was addressed to His Majesty the Sultan on the 7th instant by the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of the Caza of Toprak Kaleh, in the Sandjak of Bayazid, complaining of the depredations of some of the neighbouring Kurds, and praying for redress and protection. I understand that the Kurds complained of belong to the Zilanli tribe.

I have also learned that the large Armenian village, Kara Teheban, in the Khinis district of Erzeroum, was attacked in force by the Hassananli Kurds about the beginning of this month, and six Armenians killed, while five Kurds are said to have fallen in the attack. The village is now said to be occupied by regular troops, and a judicial inquiry has been instituted.

The lawlessness of several of the Kurdish tribes, especially those inhabiting the border districts between the Vilayets of Van, Erzeroum, and Bitlis, has been on the increase for some time past, and has been encouraged by the supineness of the authorities. Those who have been enrolled in the Hamidiyé regiments no longer consider themselves amenable to civil jurisdiction, and the military authorities have hitherto been very averse to the employment of force in reducing them to order.

As reported in my despatch of the 18th July, serious fighting has been going on between rival sections of the Hassananli tribe in Melazgerd for some time past, and now a similar conflict has broken out between two factions of the Jibranli tribe, in Varto. To add to the confusion, the Sipkanli tribe have become involved in a blood-feud with the powerful tribe of the Haidaranli, on the borders of Van and Erzeroum Vilayets, and the roads between this place and Van, as well as that leading to the Persian frontier, are reported to be very unsafe for travellers and caravans.

The fact that some of the Mussulman population have at last been stirred to address complaints to the Palace and the Porte is a proof of the increased audacity of the Kurdish marauders, who no longer confine their attentions to the helpless Armenian villages, but have taken to plundering Mussulmans and Christians alike, with great impartiality.

Within the last few days several movements of cavalry detachments in the disturbed districts have been reported to me, and it is to be hoped that the military authorities have at length awakened to the necessity of putting some check upon their new irregular auxiliaries before they have reduced the country to a condition of absolute anarchy, seeing that the evil has passed quite beyond the control of the civil administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 190.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 245.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 409 of the 28th ultimo, inclosing a letter from the Archbishops of Zeitoun and Furnous, in which they ask your intervention on behalf of themselves and their Armenian fellow-prisoners, and I approve of the course which you propose to take in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 191.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 11, 1893.

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 2 of the 5th instant, inclosing an extract from the "Daily News," I have the honour to report to your Lordship that a few days ago, having seen in the "Pester Lloyd" a telegram to the same effect purporting to come from London, I made inquiries, with the result that I have obtained no intelligence whatever in confirmation of the story told by the Salonica correspondent of the former newspaper.

The "Daily News" of the 2nd instant arrived here only yesterday, and, as I expected that questions would be asked by the Anglo-Armenian Association, I sent yesterday morning the following telegram to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople: "The statements in correspondence from here as published in 'Daily News' of 2nd instant are absolutely without any foundation in fact." I now beg leave to repeat to your Lordship what I have said in this telegram. There has been no sensation here over this or any such matter, as no such occurrence appears to have been heard of in this town. My Austrian and German colleagues have also made inquiries, and have arrived at the same conclusion, that the story is utterly unfounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 192.

The Orthodox Patriarch of the Ancient Syrians to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 20.)

(Translation.)

To his Excellency Lord Rosebery, the just Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Illustrious Country, England.

Ancient Syrian Patriarchate,

My Lord, *19th Sefer,* 1311 (*of the Hejira*).

ON certain Syrian Catholic priests lately mising the question of the union of Syrian Catholics, who follow the Pope, with our community, and their referring to me, I stated that our Church is open to everybody, and would reject nobody, but that it would be requisite for them to keep within the bounds of our creed and sever their connection with the Pope, and, thereupon, a speech was made in my presence by Khuri Joseph about the acceptance of my proposal. Upon this, by distorting the truth, they wished to dispatch a telegram to their Bishop at Mosul, to the effect that my priests and the spiritual chiefs under my management, myself, and my whole community, had accepted the supremacy of the Pope, but the Local Government, on making investigations, understood that the said telegram about this matter was merely calumny, and the requisite measures were taken. But, with a view to veiling their calumny and accrediting it, I had seen it put forward in an Arabic newspaper, called "El Beshir," published at Beyrout, in its No. 1085, dated the 9th August, 1893, that, in compliance with their wish, my priests having accepted the supremacy of the Pope and made a confession of faith last Saturday, I sent a telegram with particulars about

this to Bishop Jeni (?) at Mosul, and subsequently received a congratulatory answer from him on my being Patriarch over two communities. The telegraph office knows that no such telegram was written by me, and this is only to mislead people.

It is the custom of the Papists to be always getting up calumnies like this. For instance, some seven or eight months ago it was rumoured about and announced by Rome in Europe and America that the Chaldean Patriarch had announced to the Pope and to a priest, who had been sent to America to collect money, that the Patriarch of the Nestorians wished to be united with the Church of Rome, and that he was about to go to him. This was published in the newspaper, and large sums of money were collected under the pretext of opening schools, sending teachers, and repairing churches. An American gentleman, Mr. Conti (?), seeing this, he went to Mor Simeon (taking a copy of the paper in question with him) and inquired about the matter, who explained to him that such an idea as union (with the Pope) was a delusion and was not thought of, but it was true that the Chaldean Patriarch at Mosul had written to him proposing an interview, but he did not wish to see him and told him to return home, which he did. Mr. Conti, the afore-mentioned American gentleman, asked for a written statement about this, and obtained one accordingly, written and sealed by (Mor Simeon) himself and the Notables amongst the priests and the people, which he put before the Americans and published in the newspapers. Their calumnies being thus refuted, they were stopped collecting money in other countries.

The Papists, owing to their greediness for money, are always distorting the truth in this way. A complaint has been made, with a view to his punishment, against the proprietor of the above-mentioned newspaper for publishing reports, without any foundation, calculated to disturb people's minds.

As it is not improbable that the above-mentioned newspaper may be sent to England, and this report in it may be inserted in the English journals, and some people in India belonging to my community may be alarmed, I beg of you to publish in the English newspapers, in order that the fact may become known in Europe and other countries, that the statement made by the above-mentioned journal is contrary to the truth and based upon calumny, and that the Catholic communities, who are followers of the Pope, are accustomed to making such distortions of the truth; and I also request you to make this known in Turkey by means of the papers there, and send me a copy of a paper in which you may kindly publish this fact; but, as regards that, your Lordship will act as he deems fit.

Your well-wisher,
(Signed) THE ORTHODOX PATRIARCH OF THE ANCIENT SYRIANS.

No. 193.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 421.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 1, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit extract from a private letter I have received from an American gentleman, resident at Cæsarea, which gives a few data in regard to the position of affairs in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Extract from Private Letter from an American Gentleman in Cæsarea.

THE evil deeds and attitude of the Government last winter are becoming more and more manifest. We felt that the Local Government of Cæsarea deserved the highest praise for the preservation of order in the excited time. We learn facts now which show us how much this was due to the efforts of individuals in the Government, and that the central power at Constantinople was least of all to be commended. Two Pashas were sent from Constantinople to investigate affairs here, and in a large official gathering of the Turkish Aghas, they asked the Aghas tauntingly, "Are you not strong enough to crush these Christians without coming to us for aid?" which was as much as to say: "Why have you not risen and killed them off-hand?" One of the Aghas turned

it off by saying "They are only children, why should we do so?" We have this report privately from one of the Aghas who was present at that meeting.

The Ferik Pasha and the Mufti have acted most nobly and firmly throughout. I have no doubt that the strong preaching of the latter in the mosques has more than once been the only thing that has prevented the rising of the mob.

I don't know whether you have been told of one of the most damaging things the Government has done. There is a large Turkish village of 500 houses two or three hours distant from here called Hadjilas. The men there are noted for their fanaticism and ferocity. During the troubles, a mob from there came with the intention of attacking the city. Before reaching the city, however, they stopped to burn a number of Armenian houses in the vineyards. This delay gave the Government time to act, and the Mutessarif, with troops, went out and arrested the men, who were taken in the very act, the Mutessarif himself seeing them; fifteen of them were thrown into prison and left there for a time. It was said that this showed that the Government was impartial and determined to punish all offenders; but they were finally called into the presence of the Mutessarif and told that they were pardoned (they had never been brought to trial at all), and were given a present of 3 liras each, being told that this was a gift from the Sultan himself. This was not done secretly, a wealthy Armenian, of Thalass, was present in the Council-room at the time, and reported the occurrence to me himself. The pastor of our Cesarea Church, who is an influential member of the city Council, doubted this story when I told him of it, but he has since told us that it is absolutely true, as he has confirmed it in every particular.

These fanatics have practically been told: "Well done; take the first opportunity to do so again."

In regard to the cruelties inflicted on prisoners while in Cesarea, we find the worst reports, which we formerly refused to believe, being more and more substantially confirmed. One of the Turkish Aghas publicly boasted, sitting in a shop here in Thalass, that he had given permission to the Turkish condemned murderers, confined in the same room with the Armenian political prisoners, to pour the contents of the urine vessels over the heads of the Armenians, and otherwise maltreat them.

Incidents from the villages frequently come to our ears. In Roomdigni an old man was arrested and thrown into prison for no cause apparently, except that the Kaïmakam might extort money from him. A bribe was demanded from him as the condition of his release; he refused, though he was approached again and again. At last one day, in the presence of the Kaïmakam, when he refused again, a soldier standing by struck him in the face a blow which burst the eyeball and destroyed his sight, beside causing him intense suffering ever since. Even then he was not released, but finally yielded and paid the bribe.

No. 194.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 428.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 6, 1893.*

DURING the course of my conversation with the Grand Vizier yesterday his Highness referred to the marked change of feeling which seemed to have taken place in England towards Turkey, and dwelt at some length on the bitter attacks which were made on the Ottoman Government, both in public and in the press. He said he found it difficult to understand the interest the British public seemed to take in the internal affairs of Turkey, and the ready ear which they accorded to all tales of alleged misrule and oppression.

I said that it would not be possible for me to deny that there were indications of such a change of feeling, and his Highness had also probably noticed that the interest to which he alluded was not confined to one political party alone. The remedy was, however, in the hands of the Ottoman Government. If they introduced real and serious reforms in their provincial administration, and purged that administration of many local functionaries, I thought they would find that an improvement would take place. There was a feeling in England that the lot of the Christians in Turkey was in many respects a hard one; that there was not equality before the law; and the condition of Kurdistan and other eastern portions especially of the Empire did undoubtedly give some reason for criticizing the methods of government.

His Highness said that reforms could not be effected in a day; that Kurdistan was no doubt somewhat unruly, but that no one could deny that great progress had been made in the last thirty years. It was, he felt, rather unjust that highly civilized Western nations should judge Eastern nations by their standard, and expect the latter to rise by a bound to their level.

I said there was much truth in this, but still there were certain measures which the Government could take which would go far to dissipate the feeling which he regretted. What struck people in England very forcibly was that Kurds, for instance, would make a raid, murder, ravish, and pillage, and we never heard of any one being arrested, or of any one being punished. An Armenian youth might let fall a hasty word, or a few Armenians meet together and form what perhaps were visionary schemes of reform, and then the Government came down upon them with the full rigour of the law, and condemned them to severe sentences. A Turk murdered an Armenian and he was practically let off scot free, while if an Armenian retaliated he was executed without hesitation.

This led the conversation to the recent trials, and I took the opportunity of urging that some further mitigation should be made in certain cases. The whole movement, I said, even as presented by the *procès-verbaux*, was so childish and so insignificant that it scarcely merited the severity which was being exercised. Why not release all the twenty-five or thirty at present under sentence, and send them out of the country?

His Highness said this might be done in some countries, but they were compelled to make an example. It was easy, he said, for a strong Government, ruling over a rational, well-educated nation, to ignore sedition unless it took the form of open rebellion, but in Turkey affairs were different. The sentences no doubt appeared severe, but they were in accordance with the Code, and the Code, no doubt, was severer than the laws which governed in the West, but then the conditions were so different in Turkey.

As to the prisoners, he did hope we should have patience; the Government could not release them at present, but I should know that the Sultan was merciful, and few prisoners ever served out their complete term.

I said that I saw no reason against liberating those I had mentioned, as I was sure the Government was quite strong enough to do so with perfect security, and I hoped that his Highness would consider the matter seriously.

His Highness, on my taking leave, let fall the remark, which the Ottoman Government so frequently make, that the agitation in England in favour of the Armenians was merely playing the game of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 195.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 429.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 7, 1893.*

NO little discontent has been caused among the Gregorian Armenian community here by the refusal of the Sultan to grant permission for the convocation of the General Assembly, which should have met this year. No reason, so far as I have been able to learn, was given for the prohibition; but no doubt it arises from the unwillingness of His Majesty to allow any gathering together of his Armenian subjects.

The General Assembly is the central administrative body of the community, and its non-convocation is exceedingly inconvenient, and embarrasses considerably the conduct of educational and other important business.

The Patriarch, on being informed that the Assembly would not be allowed to meet, tendered his resignation, and has on more than one occasion reiterated his desire to retire from office, as the provisions of the Firman sanctioning the privileges of his community are not being properly executed. No notice, so far as I have heard, has been taken of these representations on the part of the Patriarch, and matters are likely to remain in this unsatisfactory state for some time to come.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 196.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 438.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September 13, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Newton respecting the probable causes of the recent Armenian movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)

Sir, *Angora, September 1, 1893.*

IN reviewing the events of the recent Armenian movement, I have the honour to recapitulate what I have already written, and to place before you in a more concise form some of the causes which may have led to the discontented feeling which had been for some time prevalent among the Armenian population.

In the district of Juzgat, Cæsarea, and Marsovan there is a large resident Armenian population, the majority of which is engaged in agricultural pursuits.

I will take the subject of farming the taxes, and the system adopted in collecting them, as forming one of the primary causes of dissatisfaction. The tax on cereals forms one of the principal items in the revenue of the province. These taxes are sold by auction to the highest bidder, and there is a good deal of competition which runs up prices to such an extent, that, unless extortion on the part of the buyer is resorted to, he would lose by the transaction.

The buyer of the wheat and barley tax pays to the Government a lump sum for the tax on the produce of a certain village or district. He estimates the coming crop at so many bushels, and should he over-estimate it, or a fall in prices occur, he has resource to extortion to make up his loss, and in the outlying districts where there are no symbols of official authority, he is supreme, and the poor villager, rather than apply to law for redress, which is a tedious and expensive process, prefers to accede to the demands of the tax collector.

These abuses fall more heavily on the Armenian than the Turk. The latter does not submit so easily, and leaves the tax buyer the alternative of having resource to law. This, however, he prefers to leave alone.

The Armenian is more submissive than the Turk, and for many reasons gives way. When the tax collector is of their own persuasion, it is all the same to the Armenian farmer, he is more relentless in his demands than a Turk would be.

There is also the "Tidjaret," or income tax, which falls heavily on the villager, both Turk and Christian. Even domestic servants earning from ten to fifteen liras a year are subjected to it. The income of the villager is invariably assessed at double or treble his actual gains; but he is obliged to pay according to the Government assessment.

In many cases these taxes are allowed to fall in arrear, and when orders are issued to collect all arrears, pressure is brought upon the villager, and if he cannot scrape together the necessary money, his belongings are sold. As a rule, the poorer classes are assessed at a much higher rate than the richer, comparatively speaking.

Following the income comes the property or house tax. Most of the villagers, both Turks and Christians, build their own houses, which are generally constructed of mud bricks. These houses are valued at a high figure, and the owners are obliged to pay according to the official valuation. The valuation of such property is often done by a zaptieh, or a Government junior clerk, and sometimes a present of a few medjidiehs has the effect of reducing the valuation to a low figure. In case, however, of a re-valuation by an official who is not open to corruption, it makes matters worse for the householder. He finds his "backsheesh" given to no purpose, and his house valued at a very high figure.

The officials employed in collecting the taxes are, as a rule, badly paid and their salaries often in arrears, consequently they are obliged to resort to extortion wherewith to procure the necessaries of life.

There is no system of supervising the work of these officials. They are left a free hand and abuses arise which are often the cause of discontent.

The administration of justice is in a deplorably backward state; litigation extending over months and years is the natural order of things, and is often the cause of recrimination between litigious parties which engenders a bad feeling.

In the task, however, of administering justice in a country like Anatolia, which contains such a diversity of races and religions is not to be surprised at, that the Turks are remiss in this respect [*sic*]. The racial and religious feelings between Turk and Christians are at the best of times somewhat strained, and it takes but a slight cause to arouse these bitter feelings and both sides are apt to make reprisals.

The Turk being the ruling power considers himself superior to the Christian, the Christian, on the other hand, looks on the Turk in the same light.

The differences between the Christian communities are not of such a nature as to insure peace and quietness. Although there is no openly expressed hostility, still there is a perceptible undercurrent of distrust and animosity. The hatred of the Catholic towards the Turk is no greater than towards the Armenian. The latter is also actuated with similar feelings. This subdued animosity is often the cause of trouble between them, and it sometimes happens that the Turk is unwillingly brought into the broil.

The Heads of the Christian communities do not do all that might be done towards influencing their followers to live at peace with each other. The spirit of religious intolerance permeates through all their relations with each other, no matter whether they be religious, social, or commercial.

It must be admitted that there are many grievances which might be remedied, and a remedy for those which I have enumerated requires no stupendous efforts. Much has been done in the way of reform, especially in the immediate districts of the central seat of the Local Government. In the outlying districts many abuses still exist.

In the relations between Turk and Christian there are undoubtedly faults on both sides. A little forbearance on the part of the Turk would no doubt be reciprocated by the Christian. But in the present temper of the Armenian population any reforms tending to the alleviation of their condition would not, I am afraid, meet with the same conciliatory spirit in which they may be given.

A less harsh and more equitable system of levying the taxes might in time allay [*sic*] much better [? bitter] feeling, and if the administration of justice was more prompt and meted out alike, with a firm hand to both Christian and Turk, confidence would be restored in their business dealings with each other, and when this is once established it might lead to a more amicable feeling between them.

Owing to recent events, the tension of feeling is strained, and where there was formerly confidence, distrust now takes its place. The Turk now sees an opportunity of asserting his superiority, and takes every advantage.

The firm measures now being taken to preserve the public peace are resented by many of the Armenians, and are made a pretext for complaint that they are being oppressed. Cases occur now and again of undue severity. It must be borne in mind that the authorities have a difficult task before them, and the too zealous action of the police at times may be pardonable.

The presence of the Representatives of the European Powers acts indirectly as a check upon the authorities in their dealings with the Christian population, as has been instanced during the recent troubles. In the districts of Cæsarea and Marsovan, where the disaffected Armenians hail from, none of the foreign Powers are represented.

Many excesses were committed even by those in high official positions. Many of those who had not taken any part in the movement were subjected to most brutal treatment.

During my long residence in this district I have had especial opportunities of observing the shortcomings of the Government, and in pointing out the above abuses they appear to me to be the root of the disaffection. If a step were taken in the right direction to eradicate some of the most glaring abuses, there would eventually be a tendency on the part of the Armenians to be more law-abiding. Justice combined with firmness, and not severity, would in time heal many grievances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 197.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 444.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September 13, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a private letter which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Angora reporting further arrests among the Armenians. Also copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consular Representative at Trebizond on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 197.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)

Sir, *Angora, September 8, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that arrests of Armenians in connection with the recent movement are still being made.

A young man, son of Dr. Ghaysakian, of Adana, has been arrested in that town. He has been brought here, and is now lodged in prison.

I also learn that Dr. Suni, Head of the Aintab College, is under arrest at Marsovan. He was on his way from Aintab to Constantinople, passing through Sivas and Marsovan. At this latter place he met with an accident—breaking his leg. He was obliged to stay at Marsovan to await recovery. Whilst there, zaptiehs arrived with orders from Sivas to arrest him and convey him back to that town. My latest information is that he was under arrest, but, owing to his accident, could not travel, and the zaptiehs were awaiting his recovery to convey him to Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 197.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Dear Sir, *Trebizond, August 26, 1893.*

COPY of a letter from Dr. Jewett, at Sivas, is herewith inclosed.

He speaks therein of the circumstances attending the arrest of Dr. Karekeen Sewney on the accusation of aiding the Armenian cause, and observes, in addition, that the charge of political offences was ticketed on the gibbeted body of Nathan Devrikli; that Garabet Kapigian is undergoing imprisonment for attempts at writing an address to the Queen respecting the abduction of an Armenian girl; and that an order had been received from the Minister of Justice for a list of such political prisoners as may be thought pardonable by the Public Prosecutor at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 197.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Sir, *Sivas, August 12, 1893.*

I WROTE you last month of the hanging of Nathan of Devrik. I have since learned that the first charge made against him, in the paper which was put on his body as it hung suspended in the market place, was political offences.

About ten months ago Garabet Kapigian wished to present the facts in regard to the abduction of an Armenian girl who was forced to become a Mahommedan, to the Queen. He was writing a letter to send through the Consul. The letter was discovered and he was put in prison. Recently he made a second attempt to send a letter to the Queen, and was put in chains in the inner prison.

I wish to call your attention to the case of Dr. Karekeen Sewney of Sivas. He is an Armenian of more than ordinary education, ability, and good sense, a Protestant, educated in America. You will recall that on my return from Marsovan, the Vali attempted to prevent all Armenians from having anything to do with me. Dr. Karekeen was one of those who, at the Vali's request, signed a paper agreeing to have nothing to do with me except what was required either professionally or by the rules of politeness. The Vali was very much provoked with the doctor because he told me about this. The doctor decided to go to America to attend the World's Fair, and expected to be gone six to eight months. The Vali tried to prevent his going, but could not find any suitable way to do so. The doctor went as far as Carza, and there he met with an accident and broke his leg. He had nearly recovered when, 5th August, he was placed under arrest; his crippled condition prevented his being taken to prison, and he is closely guarded in his own room. The circumstances of his arrest are as follows: In a letter purporting to have been written at Amassia, 7th May (o. s.), and discovered at Marsovan, it is stated that the doctor was asked to contribute 50*l.* to the cause, but that because he could not pay the full amount, and because he was a useful man to them he was allowed to pay it in instalments. The Vali instructed the police to ask the doctor about this, and if he denied it to arrest him. The doctor knew nothing about the letter or the facts therein stated, so he was made a prisoner.

My impression is that the letter is only a made-up pretext for arresting the doctor with the intent of preventing him from going to America, punishing him for revealing what the Vali did not wish to have told, and perhaps getting some money out of him. The doctor is not foolish enough, I think, to mix up in such business. If he was going to pay money at all, he could, and probably would, have paid the full amount at once. The letter is dated 7th May (o. s.), about two months before the doctor started for America, and it seems as though the instalment plan would not have been adopted when the doctor was known to be about to leave the country for six to eight months. If the case is dragged on for a long time, is not this a suitable one for officious interference?

The Procureur-Général told me yesterday that, at the request of the Minister of Justice, he was preparing a list of persons, political prisoners, who might properly be pardoned.

The Vali is still at Marsovan.

It is possible that I may pass through Trebizond on my way to Erzeroum in the early part of September.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 197.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Trebizond, August 29, 1893.*

IN connection with the inclosure in my despatch of the 26th instant, I beg to inclose herewith copy of another letter from Dr. Jewett, reporting the imprisonment of some seventy persons, consequent on fresh attempts at murder, and criticizing the conduct of the Vali of Sivas as actuated by resentment towards Dr. Karekeen and his two brothers-in-law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 197.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Consul Longworth, *Sivas, August 19, 1893.*

THERE is plenty of excitement in the Amassia region. Last week two more assassinations were attempted. One was an Armenian who became a Mahommedan, and was made a zaptieh. Four shots were fired at him; but he was not injured. One of the shots broke the arm of a Khoja, who was passing by. The other was killed at 9 A.M. on the street. The Vali, in consideration of his services, had just appointed him Cashier of the Government. The perpetrators have not been found.

About seventy persons have been arrested and imprisoned, and the old joke is beginning again. I am creditably informed that women have been tortured and beaten.

Further information tends to confirm the opinion expressed last week that the arrest of Dr. Karekeen is due to the ill-feeling of the Vali. The Vali has said to friends of Karekeen that in consequence of the doctor's having reported to me the fact that he, the Vali, had prohibited Armenians from having anything to do with me, the Minister of Foreign Affairs had reprimanded him, and "kept him tight." The Vali says that Dr. Karekeen and his two brothers-in-law, all of whom studied medicine with the missionary physicians, are the leaders of the revolutionary movement, and he is going to have them all hung. He may be right; but the Vali having secured the conviction of the two college professors as President and Secretary of the Revolutionary Society on evidence that would not bear the light of day for a moment, I have lost confidence in his judgment and his statements. One of the brothers-in-law the Vali has ordered not to leave the town Amassia. The other, Dr. Melcome, lives at Marsovan, and is a teacher and director of the Marsovan College. The Vali is trying to find some excuse for arresting him.

I have about come to the conclusion that the Vali is creating trouble for some reason best known to himself. Sitting upon these three men looks like a direct attack upon mission interests, and upon this office also.

Dr. Melcome was the nominal owner of the school building burned at Marsovan. The land upon which it stood is in his name.

I am told that the wife of a relative of Professor Thoumaian, a rascal who has long been sought after, has been imprisoned.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 197.

Acting-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Trebizond, September* 2, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith duplicate copies of a despatch from Mr. Spadaro, Her Majesty's Consular Agent at Samsoun, giving details as to the murder of the Armenian informer Djamakian, reported upon by Dr. Jewett in the inclosure to Mr. Consul Longworth's despatch of the 29th August.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 197.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le 29 Août,* 1893.

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire part de certains incidents qui se sont produits à Amassia et à Mersifoun il y a quelques jours et qui sont de nature à faire croire que la tranquillité qui règne dans ces parages depuis les derniers événements n'est qu'apparente et que de nouveaux désordres pourraient se produire.

Un nommé Djamakian, Arménien, servait d'espion aux autorités locales. En récompense de ses services, il fut nommé caissier du "malié" à Amassia. Ayant appris que le Sieur Djamakian trahissait la cause de ses coreligionnaires le Comité révolutionnaire de Mersifoun décida sa mort, et il y a quelques jours il fut assassiné vers le tard devant la porte de son domicile. L'on détacha la tête du tronc et on la plaça sur sa poitrine, l'on coupa un doigt qu'on introduisit dans la bouche.

A la suite de ce crime l'autorité procéda à l'arrestation de 150 personnes dont la plupart furent ensuite relâchées faute de preuves. Il reste actuellement en prison une vingtaine de personnes. Les coupables n'ont pas pu encore être retrouvés.

Le Valy de Sivas qui se trouvait à Mersifoun depuis quelque temps déjà s'était rendu dernièrement à Kavsa. Le lendemain de son départ de Mersifoun, par son ordre, l'autorité de cette dernière ville arrêtait et emprisonnait la femme du nommé Artin Tomayan, parent du Professeur Tomayan, compromis dans les derniers

No. 203*.

M. Demletian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, 8, *Ackers Street, Manchester, September* 23, 1893.

I CRAVE your interest in the following :—

I have received a letter this week from my brother, Vechan Demletian, an Armenian of Armdan, who has been, with about fifty other men of his village, imprisoned at Erzingian for the last eighteen months, and are in a most deplorable condition.

The only reason for their arrest was that a Turk had been found dead in bed beside his wife.

I knew this Turk personally when I was living in Armdan (which is the village where the murder was committed), and it was commonly known that he used to beat his wife frequently in order to get rid of her.

It has been found out that the wife had a lover, and they have revenged themselves in this way.

The inhabitants informed the Government local authorities of this fact when they arrived on the scene, but the arguments of the poor villagers was not listened to, and fifty of them were dragged from their homes and families to the Erzingian prison, where they are still suffering under the most atrocious cruelty. My brother writes that their food consists of about 4 ounces of bread per day, and that is sometimes refused them.

He adds that their numbers are being reduced under this treatment, their blood-thirsty butchers seem resolute that their lives should be extinguished.

He further laments the separation from his family, who need his care and support, and terminates by saying that they are hopeless of any mercy from the Turkish Governors, and their wives and children are in a starving condition.

Now, my Lord, as I cannot remain indifferent to my brother's appeal, I address myself to your Lordship, imploring your intervention in this matter, and to make strong representation to the Sultan's Government, that justice may be done.

In all these eighteen months none of the prisoners have been given a proper trial, nor do they know the real motive for their imprisonment.

My Lord, I know what Turkish prisons are, for I have been confined in one at Erzeroum for six months in 1889, when Mr. FitzGerald (a correspondent of the "Daily News") had the opportunity of seeing our wretched condition. Myself and three others were simply on a pilgrimage to the monastery at Moush, but this was made a sufficient reason for a Turkish Vali to imprison us until we were forced, after many protests, to give up our money in order to be released.

My Lord, as a protector of my countrymen, will you not press for a fair trial, so as to bring about the release of these poor Christians, for they are confident of their innocence?

The power your Lordship can bring to bear alone can save them.

Earnestly looking for your prompt action, I remain, &c.

(Signed) D. DEMLETIAN.

événements. Artin Tomayan se trouve depuis deux ans environ dans les montagnes avec quelques compagnons et fait le bandit dans l'intérêt de la cause. L'autorité pense pouvoir se faire livrer le mari en arrêtant la femme Tomayan, qui est enceinte. Le jour même de cette arrestation une cinquantaine de femmes de Mersifoun se rendaient au Conak et réclamaient la femme Thoumaian. Elles ont été dispersées sans obtenir ce qu'elles demandaient.

Il y a environ dix jours la police de Mersifoun eut des soupçons que le Comité Révolutionnaire devait se réunir la nuit dans une maison Arménienne. Elle la fit cerner par la gendarmerie et au moment de pénétrer dans le local, trois coups de feu partis de l'intérieur tuèrent un Lieutenant et deux zaptiehs. L'on se saisit des trois individus qui avaient tiré, mais l'un d'eux parvint à s'échapper; quant aux deux autres ils furent conduits en lieu sûr dans le plus grand secret et l'on ignore où ils se trouvent.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. SPADARO.

No. 198.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 252.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 428 of the 6th instant, reporting a conversation which you had with the Grand Vizier on the state of public feeling in England towards Turkey, especially in connection with the recent trials of Armenians.

I approve of the language which you held to his Highness.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 199.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord, *Batoum, August* 23, 1893

ACCORDING to a report that has reached here from Kars, an increased immigration of Armenians into the Caucasus from Asia Minor has been noticeable lately; the immigrants being mostly composed of persons forming a portion of the population of the Province of Alashkert.

It is stated that 150 families have already moved into the district of Kars, and have petitioned the Governor-General of the Caucasus to grant them lands on which they may be allowed to settle.

Should this request be acceded to by the Russian Government, which is highly probable, it is reported that the inhabitants of thirty-five Armenian villages situated in the vicinity of the Russian frontier intend to permanently pass over *en masse* from Turkish into Russian territory in consequence of the unjust manner in which they are at present vexed, harassed, and otherwise persecuted in their own country by the Turkish authorities and Kurds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. STEVENS.

No. 200.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 13.)

(No. 34.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 7, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 3rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that there are at last some signs that the military authorities have awakened to a sense of the need for restraining the lawlessness of the Kurds in the Melazgerd district. The Chief of one of the conflicting factions of the Hassananli tribe, Fethi Beg, has been arrested by Reshid Beg, Commander of the 23rd Regiment, and brought this week under guard to Erzeroum, whence he has been sent on to Erzinghian, where he will probably be

tried by court-martial. It is said that several other leaders of the same tribe are to be similarly dealt with.

An order has also been issued for the disarming of the Kurds, and is being executed as far as those are concerned who are imprudent enough to bring their arms into town. But no steps are being taken as yet with a view to their general disarmament.

I was lately informed by the Vali, Haider Pasha, that the result of the judicial inquiry into the attack by Kurds on the village of Karatchoban, reported in my above-mentioned despatch, had been to show that it was the Armenian villagers who were to blame, as some of them had begun the quarrel by ill-treating an innocent Kurd, whom they accused of having stolen some corn. I showed myself somewhat incredulous of this official version of the affair, which, even if true, scarcely justifies the attack on the village by 150 armed horsemen and the slaughter of women and children. But his Excellency seemed quite satisfied with it, and spoke in strong terms of the treacherous and rebellious spirit of the Armenians, and the necessity of teaching them a lesson. As this is the first time he has used such language, and his attitude towards the Armenians has hitherto been rather conciliatory than otherwise, it is to be feared that he is in the receipt of instructions to adopt a repressive policy towards them, as he is not a man who is likely to initiate such a policy himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 201.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 13.)

(No. 44.)

Sir, *Trebizond, September 11, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith inclosed, extracts from a communication I have received from Dr. Jewett, United States' Consul at Sivas, concerning the action of the Vali, Khalil Bey, in connection with Armenian affairs in that vilayet.

From my personal knowledge of Khalil Bey and his administration of the Van vilayet, I am forced to conclude from his action, as reported by Mr. Consul Jewett, that he is adopting in Sivas the same policy he formerly pursued in Van with regard to Armenian affairs.

In Van his spirit of intrigue and vindictiveness led him to virtually create an Armenian question, and in Sivas these same qualities would seem to have led him, not to create, but to render more acute, the present phase of the Armenian question in those parts.

After his dismissal from the Governor-Generalship of Van, and the imprisonment and exile of his partizans there, the action of the Ottoman Government in immediately afterwards appointing him Vali of Sivas seems very ill-advised, if not inexplicable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

(Extract.) *Sivas, September 2, 1893.*

IT seems to me that the welfare of foreign Christians generally residing in this province, as well as the interests of the Turkish Government, demand the immediate replacing of the present Vali, Khalil Bey, by a more judicious, more honest, and less vindictive Governor-General. Foreign Christians are under the protection of this Governor, who is not only exciting the Armenians by his cruel, unjust, and unreasonable conduct towards them, but he is inciting the more or less fanatical Moslem population to believe that foreigners are the enemies of the Empire, the cause of all the present trouble and disorder. He claimed just before leaving for Marsovan that there were still revolutionary teachers in the American College there. While in Marsovan, it is creditably reported, he has continually talked to the people as though the missionaries were directly concerned in instigating the seditious movement. Subordinate officers, taking their cue from him, talk in the same way.

Recently a "Kachak" was captured at Marsovan, or near there, with a dynamite

bomb in his pocket. We are told that when the Vali heard of it he was furiously angry, and declared that these bombs were introduced by the missionaries. Such talk as this is of the same sort and tone as that which preceded the burning of the college building last January.

The ignorant, the fanatical, and rascally portion of the community may easily be influenced by such opinions expressed by the Chief Magistrate of the province to acts of violence.

At Amassia he said to people, "Why do you do business with foreigners? Why do you talk with them? They are the greatest enemies of the Turkish Government." This is like the talk which Hosref Pasha was reported to have made at Marsovan shortly before the destruction of the College building, "All these troubles come from the College, and there will be no peace until it is destroyed. . . . ."

So prevalent has the idea become among the Protestants that it is dangerous for them to have anything to do with the missionaries at Marsovan, that they do not show them the usual hospitalities when the missionaries visit their villages, and in some cases they have requested them not to visit the village for fear that such a visit would call down upon them the wrath of the Government. This is a serious interference with the missionary business.

The Vali seems to feel very sore over the "Marsovan incident," and seems determined to get even for that affair. He has blocked the issuing of the Firman by various hindrances. He claims to know nothing of any indemnity having been paid or any permit for rebuilding promised.

The fact that M. Rodigas (Belgian) Vice and Deputy United States' Consul, and the missionaries did not receive the usual invitation to the official reception on the Sultan's Accession Day points to this disrespect and ill-feeling towards foreign residents. The Governor's remarkable incapacity for handling the Armenian question finds many illustrations.

He prohibited the Armenians, even the personal friends of the Consul, from calling on the Consul, and when he was reprimanded by the Minister of the Interior for his discourtesy to the Consul he put one of the most intelligent and popular Armenians, Dr. Karekeen, in prison because he supposes he was responsible for his having been reported. The Vali has another charge against the Doctor, which it seems to me is probably false, upon which the arrest was made. From letters to me from the missionaries and the German Vice-Consul, as well as other letters from the relatives of the Doctor, reporting his continual bitter talk regarding this grievance which he thinks he has against the Doctor, it seems to me plain enough that revenge is his chief motive. He said because the Doctor reported the prohibition to me he should treat him as a traitor.

The proposition which he has made to Dr. Meleone, Teacher and one of the Board of Directors of the Marsovan College, is a good illustration of his bad methods of conduct. The Vali told the Doctor that unless he did three things he would put him in prison:—

1. He must sign a paper stating that the College property now held in his name was not bought for the missionaries, but only for himself.

2. He must give up his position in the College and all connection with the missionaries.

3. He must furnish the names of some men who could well be imprisoned.

These are the propositions as reported to me by the Mission. I have not heard of his arrest yet.

It may be that the Vali, instead of having an incapacity for doing good work, has a great capacity and a well-defined plan for making trouble, and the idea which has been expressed that he is acting as the agent of some party bent upon creating disturbance in Asia Minor finds some foundation in his recent conduct, as well as in his conduct before he came here.

Early in the summer the chiefs of the various trades here (it is said at the instigation of the Vali) informed the Armenian families that they should not send their children to the Protestant and Jesuit schools.

No. 202.

Dr. Jewett to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 13.)

Sir, *Sivas, September* 10, 1893.

THE following facts are, perhaps, of sufficient interest to warrant my sending them directly to you.

I learn from reliable source that the Armenians at Marsovan and Amassia say that the troubles and disturbances there are instigated and carried on by Russians. They say there is a Committee in each city under the leadership of a Russian Armenian. By threats and by violence these Committees collect money and control the movements of the Armenians.

My information relates more especially to Marsovan, where the control of the Russian Committee, as it is called, is more powerful. Several accounts, pretty well vouched for, are told to me, which tend to prove the following statements: An outlaw Government or Governing Committee has been formed, which has assumed the control of the Armenians. The Head of the Committee, who is recognized as Judge or President, is a young Russian Armenian. The Committee summons, and gives orders, or makes certain demands, which are so backed up by threats that the demands are acceded to. The Committee has forbidden the Armenians to go to the Government with their complaints, and the Armenians are afraid to do so. Even private matters, disputes regarding property, the collection of debts, &c., are now referred to the Committee.

The houses of Marsovan are built close together, and have many intercommunications.

The Judge and his associates, who are refugees, move about from house to house.

The Vali called the Armenians, and told them there could not be two Governments; they must choose which one they would obey. The next day those whom the Vali had summoned received from the Committee the answer which they were to give to the Vali. They said it was too severe to give to the Vali, and that is where the matter rested at the date of my latest information, seven days ago.

The Armenians say they are in terrible straights, menaced and persecuted by two Governments. The expressed sentiment is against the Russians.

On the 29th August a shoemaker at Marsovan, who is said to have told the Government about the Committee, was murdered on the street in open day. That makes, I think, the eighth or ninth that has been assassinated in Marsovan and Amassia.

Dr. Karekeen, a prominent Armenian of Sivas, and other prominent Armenians, are in prison at Amassia on charges of being connected with this seditious movement, which charges, I think, must be false. To-day a gentleman connected with the Court in this city had an interview with the Vali on behalf of his cousin, Dr. Karekeen. The following is the most important part of the Vali's statement as reported by this gentleman:—

The Vali said, "Only one thing can deliver the prisoners; they must confess, bring me the seal of the Committee, and deliver the refugees, or show the place where they are. If they do that, I will give my word of honour that I will set them free. If necessary I will ask pardon from the Sultan for them. The Government has given up Marsovan and Amassia, and, if it is necessary, I will put the whole population in prison, but I will not give up this matter. Now, it is necessary that the people of those places either deliver the seven refugees to the Government, or show the place where they are, and then, after we have gotten hold of them, we will set the rest free. How is it that the people cannot find these refugees, while with unanimous arrangement they closed 2,000 shops? In the same way they can deliver up the refugees and the seal of the Committee, and then I will give up the matter. Otherwise, Dr. Jirinin and Dr. Meleone, others from Amassia, and many from Marsovan, will be put in prison. I will grind this matter for years, and I will keep them in prison if they do not confess the truth. If is true they may find means in the Courts to be acquitted, but they must know that I will appeal, and if they get acquitted from the appeal, I will re-examine the matter, and so on and on. I will drag the matter as long as possible, and whatever is necessary to keep them long in prison, I will not fail to do it. Write to them that they must make a clean breast, deliver the seal and the refugees, and then I will save your cousin and the others; otherwise they will be kept in prison for years."

The Vali told this man the names of the refugees; among them were Shimavon, a Russian, and Harautune Thoumaian.

I think this interview throws some light on the state of affairs at Marsovan, and indicates the character and policy of the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

No. 203.

Vice-Consul Jones to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 13.)

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Rhodes, September* 13, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 24th ultimo respecting the detention of Armenian political prisoners in the local gaol, and to report that in reply to inquiries made it was stated that the political prisoners of that nationality now being detained here are comparatively few in number.

I have the honour to add that information was also given with respect to the two professors exiled from Broussa (whose detention here was reported in my despatch No. 26 of the 29th June), to the effect that they have recently been released from the gaol, and are now allowed complete freedom of movement within the limits of the island, whereas, on their arrival here, permission to pass beyond the city gates was withheld from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 204.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 13.)

(No. 46.)
Sir, *Trebizond, September* 20, 1893.

WITH reference to the inclosure in my No. 43 of the 2nd September, I am informed that shortly after the arrest and imprisonment of many of the principal Armenian shop-keepers of Marsovan, consequent on the murder of the Armenian informer Djamakian, a number of placards were posted up in the town. The substance of these placards was that they (the members of the "Committee") were loyal to the Sultan and friendly to good government, but they were hostile to corrupt officials who persecuted the people.

The Vali, who was in the town, finding, it is said, that the Mahommedan population sympathized with the sentiments expressed in the placards, refrained from investigating the incident.

The Turks, it appears, were complaining of the annoyance caused by the stoppage of business owing to the Vali's wholesale imprisonment of Armenian shop-keepers and traders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 205.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 13.)

(No. 35.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 22, 1893.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 24th instant, inquiring into the truth of certain statements respecting the detention of Armenians in prison, without cause, in various Turkish towns, I have the honour to report that, so far as my Consular district is concerned, I am not aware of any cases where Armenians have been detained without any ostensible case whatever, although it is unfortunately true that they are occasionally arrested on frivolous or unfounded charges, and detained, sometimes for months, without

trial, as reported in numerous despatches by my predecessors and myself. As Van is the only place within my Consular district specified in your inquiry, I have requested Her Majesty's Vice-Consul there to report on the subject, and if he thinks it advisable, to communicate the results to you by cypher telegram, so as to avoid the long delay caused by the slowness of the posts.

With regard to the case of Dr. Garabed Pachaian, the following is all that I have been able to learn: Dr. Pachaian was employed last year as resident physician by the English Mining Company at Lidjussi, in the Sivas Vilayet. Nearly a year ago he was arrested at Kara Hissar and sent to Erzinghian, where he has been detained ever since, on a charge of having incited the Armenian inhabitants of Armoudan, in the Caza of Girdjenis, to sedition. Before Dr. Pachaian's arrest a Mussulman Notable of Armoudan was murdered, and a large number of Armenians of the village, amounting it is said to fifty in all, are under arrest on suspicion of being concerned in the murder, to which "political charges" were added later. An Armenian Notable of the same village, named Hadji Caloust, who took to the mountains with a band of six armed men, was captured two or three months ago with four members of his band, one having been killed during the capture, and another having effected his escape, and they now lie in Erzinghian prison. I am informed that Hadji Caloust, who was a rich man formerly, declares that he was driven to brigandage by the injustice and extortions of the local authorities. So it would seem that much discontent, and perhaps some sedition, really existed at Armoudan.

The charge against Dr. Pachaian was chiefly based on the evidence of an Armenian muleteer, who was captured with a quantity of gunpowder in his possession, and declared that it had been intrusted to him by Dr. Pachaian for the people of Armoudan. This muleteer has been confronted with the Doctor in the course of the inquiry at Erzinghian, but failed to recognize him, and, on his being pointed out to him, stated that "that was not the man who had given him the powder." It is also said that he has confessed that he had been told by a friend to denounce Dr. Pachaian in order to shield himself.

Dr. Pachaian has been subjected to various interrogatories, but has not yet been put upon his trial. In the meanwhile, I hear that he is allowed a certain measure of comfort and liberty within the gaol, and that he is even permitted to practise his profession, his patients being allowed access to the prison to consult him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 206.

Consul-General Moore to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 13.)

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Tripoli, September 23, 1893.*

IN compliance with the instruction contained in your despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to furnish the following list of Armenian prisoners or exiles detained in the Vilayet of Tripoli.

Detained in the city of Tripoli, but allowed to be at large on bail and engaged in various trades:—

Migirditch Sarian, of Trebizond, arrived May 1888; cause of banishment, "mesure administrative," no term fixed.

Markar Monigian, of Agun, February 1891; "mesure administrative," no term fixed.

Serkis Doctorian, of Agun, February 1891; "mesure administrative," no term fixed.

Nichan Aezunian, of Agun, February 1892; term of banishment perpetual, cause unknown.

Carabet Derbovossian, of Van, May 1893; term of banishment perpetual, cause unknown.

Aristakis Papazian, of Van, May 1893; term of banishment perpetual, cause unknown.

Twenty other exiles, I am informed, fled last year and got away.

On the 16th instant there arrived, chained, nine Armenian prisoners, two of whom are priests, whose names follow; these have been condemned to various terms of imprisonment as the result of the late trials at Angora:—

Rev. Daniel Ashikian, Superior of the Convent of Erivan.
Rev. Martyros Djivanian, Protestant Minister, Cæsarea.
Carabed Aladjadgian, Cæsarea.
Agob Djebinleddekian, Cæsarea.
Parsegh Dokmedjian, Cæsarea.
Caro Kertmenian, Cæsarea.
Misak Jazidjian, Cæsarea.
Agob Bairamian, Sivas.
Misak Ketchedjian, Yuzgat.

Detained at Mourzouk, chief town of the Mutessariflik of Fezzan:—

Sahak Mahdessian, arrived in 1889; cause of banishment, "mesure administrative."

The case of this man is well known to the American missionaries at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 207.

*Memorandum by Mr. Bertie on State of the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey, August 1892 to October 1893.**

Asiatic Provinces

THE state of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey has been much the same as it generally is—maladministration, murders, and counter-murders.

Seditious placards.

Sir Clare Ford, No. 64, February 26, 1893.

On the 3rd March last a despatch was received from Sir C. Ford, in which he reported the posting of seditious placards in the Provinces of Sivas and Angora, and the burning of the American College at Marsovan.

American College at Marsovan.

The placards had appeared early in January, and their authorship had been laid by the Vali of Sivas to the charge of the Marsovan College, two Professors of which — MM. Thoumaian and Kayaian—had consequently been arrested.

Consul Longworth to Sir Clare Ford, February 15, 1893.

Sir Clare Ford, No. 77, Confidential, March 7, 1893.

On the 2nd February a part of the College was burned, the Chief of the Sivas Gendarmerie having himself, according to Mr. Spadaro, Consular Agent at Samsoun, set fire to the building. Dr. Jewitt, the United States' Consul at Sivas, who was sent to Marsovan to inquire into the matter, stated that he had strong evidence that that officer was the incendiary.

Revolutionary Society.

Mr. Newberry, Secretary to the United States' Legation, sent to make inquiry on the spot, reported that Marsovan was the head-quarters of a Revolutionary Society, with branches at Angora, Cæsarea, and other places. The existence of the Society was known to the Turkish authorities, and the posting of the placards was followed by wholesale arrests. Among the prisoners detained were MM. Thoumaian and Kayaian.

Wholesale arrests.

* Extracted from Eastern Department Memorandum of October 15, 1893 (Confidential Paper No. 6401).

The Ottoman Government agreed to pay the full value of the building which was destroyed, and to give permission for it to be rebuilt.

American College to be rebuilt.

Sir Clare Ford, No. 154, April 24, 1893.

During the month of April the majority of the Armenian prisoners were released, under a general amnesty by the Sultan, and on the 2nd May Consul Newton reported from Angora that there were fifty-three awaiting trial.

General amnesty.

Vice-Consul Newton, May 2 (in Sir Clare Ford's No. 178, May 8, 1893).

On the 20th May the trial began, the Court being composed of a President (a Turk), two other Turks, one Armenian Catholic, and one Greek.

Angora trials.

Vice-Consul Newton, May 22 (in Sir Clare Ford's No. 211, May 27, 1893).

On the 12th June the sentences were delivered: Thoumaian, Kayaian, and fifteen others were found guilty of high treason, murder, and robbery, and condemned to death, eleven were acquitted, and the rest were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

Vice-Consul Newton to Sir A. Nicolson, June 12 and 20, 1893.

In a despatch dated the 13th June Vice-Consul Newton declared that there had not been the slightest evidence brought forward of M. Thoumaian's guilt; the prisoners were not allowed to explain their cases at any length, no witnesses were heard for the defence, and those for the prosecution were not cross-examined, nor was any opportunity for doing so allowed to the accused.

Sir A. Nicolson, No. 270, June 18, 1893.

On the 3rd July Lord Rosebery telegraphed to Sir A. Nicolson that Her Majesty's Government could not wait for the decision of the Court of Cassation, to which the finding of the Angora Court was to be submitted, and he expressed indignation at the proceedings of the authorities; this telegram was sent after an interview with Rustem Pasha, to whom Lord Rosebery had said that the first trial having been a mockery he could not await a second, but must press for the pardon of the Professors.

Action of Her Majesty's Government.

Court of Cassation.

To Sir A. Nicolson, No. 166, July 3, 1893.

On the 4th July Sir A. Nicolson was informed by the Grand Vizier that the Court of Cassation had confirmed the sentences, but that MM. Thoumaian and Kayaian had been pardoned by the Sultan. Orders would be given to liberate the prisoners at once, but they must leave the country.

MM. Thoumaian and Kayaian pardoned and exiled.

Sir A. Nicolson, No. 111, Telegraphic, July 4, 1893.

The fact of the release of MM. Thoumaian and Kayaian was also announced to Lord Rosebery by Rustem Pasha, who stated at the same time, however, that the Turkish Government had,

To Sir A. Nicolson, No. 173 A, July 5, 1893.

in their opinion, absolute proof of the guilt of the accused.

The two Professors travelled from Angora to Constantinople, and left Turkey on the 10th July.

On the 19th July Rustem Pasha pressed for pledges that Her Majesty's Government would give no encouragement to Armenian conspirators.

Five men condemned for murder were executed; the rest of those who had been sentenced to death had their punishment reduced to eight years' hard labour; the sentences of six men who had been condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment were reduced to six years; the remaining sentences were also reduced.

There is no doubt that a good deal of the agitation amongst the Armenians is due to Secret Committees, under foreign organization (it is supposed Russian). It was this conviction that made the Sultan so unusually determined and severe in regard to the trial of the Armenian prisoners at Angora.

In November 1892 the Sultan informed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that he intended to send in the ensuing spring a Special Commission into the Asiatic provinces, with full power to institute reforms in the gendarmerie and Tribunals, and to redress all legitimate causes of complaint substantiated by his subjects, without distinction of race and creed.

In January the seditious placards were posted up in the Provinces of Sivas and Angora.

At the beginning of April the Sultan sent for Artin Pasha, the Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, who is an Armenian, accused the Armenian Notables in Constantinople, and particularly the Armenian officials, of fomenting troubles, and in concert with the Armenian Committees abroad provoking questions in the British Parliament. Artin suggested to the Sultan the sending of the Commission which His Majesty had spoken of to Sir C. Ford. The Sultan replied that he had not the slightest intention of doing so, as the only result would be to embitter the question and to encourage foreign Governments to intervene in the matter. He added that he intended to govern his own country himself, and even if a general massacre were to ensue, he would not tolerate the interference of any one.

Porte asks for assurances from Her Majesty's Government.

To Sir A. Nicolson, No. 185B, Very Confidential, July 19, 1893.

Mitigation of sentences.

Sir A. Nicolson, No. 359, July 31, 1893.

Secret Committees.

Mr. Tilley, Memorandum, October 10, 1893.

Sultan and question of a Special Commission to Asiatic Provinces.

Sir Clare Ford, No. 107, Telegraphic, November 12; and despatch No. 342, Confidential, November 14, 1892.

Sir Clare Ford, No. 64, February 26, 1893.

Sir Clare Ford, No. 125, Secret, April 7, 1893.

Consul Graves is of opinion that an insurrection was not really contemplated, but that the design was to create an appearance of revolt and disorder in order to attract attention and provoke foreign interference. He says that the leaders of the forward party among the Armenian Nationalists are largely Russian Armenians, some of whom have served in the army, while others are fugitives on account of their Nihilistic or Socialistic tendencies, and others again are professional agitators. Secret Committees were organized in Marsovan and the surrounding district. He is inclined to think that the seditious placards were composed by malcontent Turks resident abroad, and communicated by them to the Armenian agitators. The accusations brought against the American College Mr. Graves believes to have been due to the failure of some of the Turkish local officials to extort bribes from the College in business matters. The burning of the buildings was represented by them as an endeavour by the College authorities to destroy the traces of the conspiracy.

Consul Graves on origin and object of movement and Secret Committees.

Sir A. Nicolson, No. 357, Confidential, July 31, 1893.

American College.

F. BERTIE.

Foreign Office,
October 15, 1893.

No. 208.

Dr. Jewett to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 23.)

(Extract.) *Sivas, September* 23, 1893.

THE state of affairs at Amassia and Marsovan seems to grow worse rather than better.

Reliable reports say that the conduct of the soldiers is very bad. They break into houses, take most everything of value, violate girls and boys, &c. The Government does not seem to attempt to check these outrages, but, on the contrary, appears to be doing its best to excite the Moslems against the Christians.

The Mutessarif of Amassia, who is a relative by marriage of the Vali, made a speech a few days ago at the principal Armenian school in which he said, "You are hoping to get help from Europeans, and you kneel down before them. You do not remark that they are playing a joke on your backs. Europeans have been trying for a long time to destroy the Turkish Empire, and they put you forward now to create new troubles. If even their plans would succeed, would you be any better off than now? You pay little tax; you are free from military service; you keep your religion, your language, and your customs. Would the Power coming in our place give you the same liberties? Look at Russia, where the Government has shut up all your schools, and is now considering the question of shutting up your principal church at Etchmiadzin. Why do you send your children to the schools of the Europeans where their spirit is corrupted by new and foolish ideas?"

The Mutessarif then talked about the fugitives, and gave the community three days in which to deliver them to the Government. If they failed to do so in the specified time he said he would use stronger measures, and would put all their best men in prison. I have not learned the result of this threat.

The seditious feeling among the Armenians is growing stronger day by day on account of what they regard as cruel and unjust treatment. Even the women and children have caught the spirit. It seems to me that the Turkish officials by stupid and injudicious conduct are themselves fomenting the trouble.

No. 209.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 23.)

(No. 10.)

Sir, *Van, October* 3, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th May last, and a paragraph which appeared in the "Daily News" of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that immediately after the crime therein dilated upon, the "Procureur-Général," accompanied by proper officers, was dispatched to the village to hold an inquiry.

The bodies of the deceased remained in the village, where it was decided to make a processional demonstration of mourning before their interment. A day or two after the crime therefore, upwards of one hundred villagers, including relations of the victims, brought the corpses laid out uncovered upon ox-carts into the town; the girls who were ravished or who were said to have been ravished—and to this day Armenians repeat that this was indeed the case, in spite of the denials of the Vali and the examining doctor—were in the procession.

In passing through the suburbs, an extended route was taken so that the procession might pass down the main road and before the foreign Consulates. Half-an-hour was spent in cries and manifestations of grief before this Consulate at an hour when I was personally absent, and a longer time in front of the Persian Consulate, until the Consul-General made application to the police for the villagers to be moved on. A little distance further down the road another stop was made before the Vali's private residence; his Excellency of course was at the Government House in town 2 miles distant; here the police and gendarmes came into violent collision with the demonstrators, blows were freely given, and it was said that one villager's arm was broken. Eventually the unhappy peasants reached the Government House, where the Vali addressed to them some condolences, promised justice, and made a liberal contribution towards the burial expenses, persuading them to return home quietly.

The following inaccuracies occur in the extract reproduced by the "Daily News":—

1. The projected procession might quite easily have been prevented in its inception, had the authorities chosen to do so, but very rightly such a measure, which might have denoted a degree of harshness and want of sympathy, was not taken.

2. The behaviour of the villagers was rather calculated to exasperate the police than *vice versâ*. Naturally public displays of emotional grief and lamentation are viewed differently in the East than from our point of view; but the procession, knowing where the Vali was to be found, should have moved on at once, instead of annoying the Vali's harem and household by a show of naked lacerated corpses. The police were not to blame for using unnecessary violence.

3. The statement of the Vali being terrified and ordering the arrest of the demonstrators, and accusing them of being the murderers, is absolutely void of truth.

1. One or two of the villagers who took part in the procession were, I believe, arrested after it for interrogation on certain points, but this was in no way on account of the demonstration. Every day just after an outrage of such appalling magnitude arrests of any suspicious character or armed individual found anywhere within a large radius of the spot were being seized; most were released very shortly, whilst others were detained a little while till an interrogation could be made.

I regret that I have nothing further to add to my letter of the 30th May, but that this miserable crime does seem likely to be ever fully elucidated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 210.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 471.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 12, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received through Mr. Acting Consul Fitzmaurice, reporting the capture of the members of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee at Marsovan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 210.

Mr. Spadaro to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.

Monsieur, *Samsoun, le 28 Septembre,* 1893.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que Békir Pacha, Caïmakam de Mersifoun, a, le 21 de ce mois, à 5 heures du matin, surpris et anéanti le Comité Socialiste Arménien de cette ville dans les circonstances suivantes.

Depuis quelque temps déjà Békir Pacha avait connaissance, par un espion, du lieu où les membres du dit Comité se réunissaient. Ayant rassemblé 300 hommes composés de zaptiehs et de soldats, il fit cerner dans la nuit du 20 au 21 tout un quartier, et afin de prendre les membres du Comité vivants, il attaqua à la pointe du jour la maison qu'ils occupaient.

Ceux-ci se défendirent à coups de feu et lancèrent même deux bombes de dynamite au milieu des assaillants. Ce n'est qu'après un siège de quatre heures qu'on s'empara du local. La troupe a fait également usage de ses armes. Elle a eu, dit-on, vingt-cinq hommes morts et blessés. Le chef du Comité que l'on prétend être un Arménien du Caucase, de nationalité Russe, a été pris blessé en voulant s'enfuir par les toits. Il a expiré le lendemain; on a eu le temps, cependant, de lui faire subir un interrogatoire qui a été sans conséquence et n'a compromis aucun de ses complices. Deux membres du Comité ont été tués; deux autres voyant que toute résistance était inutile, se sont suicidés afin de ne pas tomber vivants entre les mains des Turcs. Quatre ont été pris sur lesquels un est parvenu à s'échapper. Les cadavres ont été traînés dans les rues et exposés devant le Konak, à la grande joie de l'assistance, qui était composée de Turcs.

Depuis quelque temps déjà tous les esprits étaient exaspérés à Mersifoun: les Arméniens, parce que l'autorité locale permettait aux soldats de pénétrer dans leurs maisons, où sous prétexte de perquisitions, ils se livraient à toutes les horreurs; les Turcs, parce qu'ils considèrent les Chrétiens comme des rebelles.

Dans cette triste circonstance Békir Pacha a agi avec beaucoup de discernement, beaucoup de sagacité. Il n'a pas voulu attaquer de nuit afin d'éviter un massacre certain. En effet, les dispositions de la population Musulmane étaient telles qu'il y aurait eu effusion de sang. Békir Pacha était si loin de l'ignorer qu'il avait donné à ses soldats l'ordre formel de faire feu sur le premier Turc qui tuerait un Chrétien. Grâce à cette prévoyance il n'y a pas eu d'autres morts que ceux cités plus haut. Plusieurs Chrétiens rencontrés dans la rue le jour de l'événement ont été, il est vrai, insultés et frappés, mais ce sont là des faits qui se produisent ordinairement dans toute perturbation publique en Orient, et tout s'est borné à ces faits. A la suite de cet événement l'autorité a saisi une grande correspondance qui pourrait compromettre beaucoup d'Arméniens, des armes, des munitions et des bombes de dynamite.

Deux jours auparavant le Mutessarif d'Amassia a prononcé dans l'église la plus importante de cette ville un discours qui peut être résumé ainsi: il a reproché aux Arméniens de se laisser distancer par les Grecs. Il leur a dit qu'ils étaient bien malheureux de se trouver dans la situation présente et que cette situation était la conséquence des mauvais conseils donnés par les étrangers (les Jésuites et les Missions Américaines); que le Gouvernement était disposé à leur ouvrir des écoles, à payer les professeurs et les livres à la condition, toutefois, que la population Arménienne livrât à l'autorité les personnes qui se sont insurgées contre le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté. Il a conclu que si ces personnes n'étaient pas désignées dans les trois jours, il exécuterait les ordres de Sa Majesté.

C'est là un langage comminatoire visant à effrayer la population. Il n'en a pas été tenu compte. Deux jours après, les événements que je viens de relater se produisaient.

J'aurai l'honneur de vous tenir au courant de ce qui pourrait se produire de nouveau.

La situation de l'intérieur est des plus tristes; le commerce est paralysé, arrêté même, car il se trouve presque en entier entre les mains des Arméniens. Le crédit n'existe plus, personne n'étant sûr du lendemain, et ce qui est regrettable c'est qu'il est impossible aujourd'hui de prévoir l'issue de cet état de choses, dont la durée ne peut être que préjudiciable aux intérêts commerciaux des pays de l'Europe qui trafiquent avec cette région.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SPADARO.

No. 211.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 476.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 12, 1893.*

AT my interview with the Grand Vizier on the 9th instant the subject of the Armenian question was broached, and I informed his Highness that the question in general, and the judicial proceedings which had taken place this summer at Angora in particular, had excited the deepest interest in England.

I regretted, I said, to find that a feeling prevailed there that His Imperial Majesty's Armenian subjects did not receive that impartial treatment which they deserved, and which was accorded to the Sultan's subjects professing other creeds.

I was aware, I added, that instances had occurred in which public opinion abroad had been misled by exaggerated reports as to the treatment of Armenians which had sometimes appeared in the press, but that fact did not materially affect the general opinion which existed, that the present condition of the Armenians was decidedly open to improvement.

The Turkish Government had just passed through a crisis, but, unless timely measures were taken, others of a far more serious character might be in store for them.

The Grand Vizier replied that he was fully alive to the importance of the present state of affairs, but feared that, in spite of the best efforts of the Turkish Government to remedy matters, foreign critics would always be found ready to distort its acts and misrepresent its efforts to effect any amelioration in the condition of the Armenian subjects of His Imperial Majesty.

He was anxious, he said, to be furnished with the contents of any reports which might reach Her Majesty's Embassy from British Consuls, which treated of complaints on the part of Armenian subjects, and he promised that if they were brought to his notice he would have the cases properly looked into, and a remedy applied to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 212.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 477.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 13, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 471 of the 12th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Trebizond, inclosing a communication from Dr. Jowett which confirms the account of the capture of Armenian outlaws at Marsovan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 212.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir A. Nicolson

Sir, *Trebizond, October* 6, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith inclosed extracts from a communication from Dr. Jewett, United States' Consul at Sivas, confirming, in the main, the account of the capture of Armenian outlaws at Marsovan as given by Consular Agent Spadaro in his despatch of the 28th September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 212.

Dr. Jewett to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.

(Extract.) *Sivas, September* 30, 1893.

I WROTE you last week of the capture of the "Katchaks" at Marsovan. I have received some further details of interest. On the evening of the 20th (it was the last day of grace that the Mutessarif had given the Armenians to produce the Commita) the Government received information that the outlaws were in a certain place in the city. Soldiers and zaptiehs were drawn about the place in a heavy cordon and guarded it until morning. At daybreak the attack began. The outlaws would not surrender. The fight was short and sharp. Four Armenians were killed, and four were taken prisoners, some of them, I think, wounded. One wounded outlaw escaped. The recognized leader of the band, a Russian Armenian, was among those killed. He is said to have stated shortly before he died that he was a Russian; that his purpose in being here was to organize, and that there were other Russians operating in other towns and cities. Quite a crowd of Turks gathered to see the fight, but they were restrained from mob violence by the Kaïmakam, although they were inclined to be abusive to the prisoners. The soldiers and zaptiehs are said to have conducted themselves quite properly except in the matter of stealing things from the houses which they searched. Quite a number of Armenians were arrested near the place where the fight occurred, or in adjoining houses. One young man who is said to have been entirely innocent was killed. It is said one zaptieh was killed and another wounded.

No. 213.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 482.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 13, 1893.

AT the interview which I had to-day with the Sultan the conversation turned on the question of Armenia, and I was glad to have an opportunity of disabusing His Imperial Majesty's mind of several erroneous ideas.

He was persuaded that the Anglo-Armenian Association in London was an institution particularly favoured and encouraged by Her Majesty's Government. I informed him that it did not receive any active encouragement from the Government, who merely took cognizance of matters which were brought by the Association to their especial notice, and who spared no pains to carefully sift them.

As a matter of fact, I said, the welfare of His Imperial Majesty's Christian subjects was a matter which could not fail to interest all Englishmen, who were actuated by a genuine and earnest desire to see their co-religionists treated in a fair and impartial manner all the world over. An impression certainly existed in England that the Armenian subjects of His Imperial Majesty did not always receive proper and fair treatment, and that they were placed in a disadvantageous position as compared with the dominant race of Turks. Those Turks, I said, in Asia Minor could be calculated at about 13,000,000, against 1,000,000 of Christians. These figures would at once dispose of another error into which His Imperial Majesty appeared to have fallen, namely, that the desire of England was to see the million of Armenians occupying the first position in Asia Minor, and the 13,000,000 Turks placed in subjection under them. Such an idea never entered into the head of any British statesman. It was impracticable, and not to be thought of.

The solution of the Armenian question might be summed up in a few words—good

administration and equal justice to Turk and Christian. Such, I feared, was not at present the case, and the existence of the feeling of discontent among the Christians was proof positive of the fact.

In reply, the Sultan stated that the discontent among his Armenian subjects could hardly be so general as was represented, seeing that so great a number of them found employment and led prosperous lives under the Imperial Government, and that several of them held posts of the highest importance. In Constantinople alone their number was considerable, and His Imperial Majesty offered to supply me, should I wish it, with a list of them. In his opinion, the flame of Armenian disaffection was chiefly fanned by a discontented fraction, who had emigrated to foreign lands.

His Imperial Majesty then plunged into a long disquisition on Moslem law as relating to the treatment of Christians by Mahommedans, to which I rejoined that there was a great difference between the principles of a law and their application. I maintained my point, that the only true policy for His Imperial Majesty to pursue in the present circumstances was to assure himself that Turkish functionaries appointed to posts in Asia Minor were men of well-tried probity and of liberal temperament, in which case all would go well. I then cited the ill-judged nomination of Hosref Pasha as an example of the mischief which resulted from bad appointments. Hosref Pasha, I said, was an ex-brigand, and had been tried on a charge of murder. Nevertheless, he was named Chief of the Gendarmerie at Marsovan, and was the real instigator of the burning of the Armenian College last spring in that town. I could perceive that His Imperial Majesty had never even heard of the individual, and was annoyed to learn that such an appointment had been made. He said he would investigate the matter at once, and gave me to understand that in future more attention would be paid to the selection of public officials to occupy posts in places where Christian communities resided. In short, His Imperial Majesty seemed to be impressed by the warning which I ventured to give him, that fresh troubles would inevitably occur in Asia Minor if the greatest prudence were not exercised in naming good Governors to the different provinces. Abuddeen Pasha, the Governor of Angora, was, I added, an excellent man, and officials like him should be chosen for such posts.

Our conversation on the subject of Armenia terminated in an assurance on the part of His Imperial Majesty that he would give me his best co-operation in this question, and listen to any suggestion I might have to make, which I could convey to him through the Grand Vizier. He expressed, however, an earnest hope that too ready credence might not be given in England to the many exaggerated reports apparently intentionally circulated by Armenian political agents in order to discredit him and his Government, and which were so unhappily calculated to envenom the question.

I have derived considerable satisfaction from my conversation with His Imperial Majesty on this most important subject, which I do not propose to let drop, as I have been fortunate enough to find the Sultan in such an excellent disposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 214.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 273.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 25, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 482 of the 13th instant, relative to an interview which you had with the Sultan, in the course of which the condition of the Armenians in Turkey was discussed.

I approve the language which you held to His Imperial Majesty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 215.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 278.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 476 of the 12th instant, reporting a conversation you had had with the Grand Vizier on the subject of the condition of the Armenians in Turkey.

I approve of the language you held to his Highness.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 216.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 488.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 26, 1893.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 203 of the 9th August, and to Sir A. Nicolson's despatches Nos. 448, 466, and 467 of the 20th September and the 4th October respectively, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consular officers at Aleppo, Smyrna, Angora, and Beyrout, reporting on the number of Armenians still detained in those places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 216.

Consul Jago to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Aleppo, October* 4, 1893.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Circular dated the 24th August last, I have the honour to report that there are no Armenians in prison without cause in the Province of Aleppo.

As reported by me in my despatch of the 7th August, there are twenty-nine Armenians in the Aleppo prisons who have been condemned by the local Court of Appeal for alleged sedition.

As regards the Province of Adana, there are seven Armenians detained in the prisons of Adana for alleged political causes, namely, six at Adana and one at Mersyna; of these, six are detained in virtue of sentences pronounced by Courts, and one lately arrested whose case is still under judgment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 216.

Consul Jago to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Aleppo, October* 4, 1893.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of this day's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith details of the cases of the seven Armenians, prisoners, now detained in the Adana prisons, as furnished to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Christman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 216.

List of Armenians detained in prison for alleged political causes at Adana.

1. Yarvante Sacca Tatlossian; 2. Hatchinli Hamparsoun Saradjian. Both young men, about 18 years, theological students, protégés of his Grace the Catholicos of Cis. Both sentenced to two years' imprisonment for possessing national poems; already eighteen months in prison.

3. Hatchinli Boghos. Cause and term of detention unknown.

4. Arabkirli Djeredgi Boghos. Eighteen months' prison for possessing seditious papers.

5. Stratmeyrian. Merchant, one year's prison for writing from Beyrout to his partner at Adana to be cautious in dealing with Turks.

6. Missak Tsherdgian. Merchant of Mersina, one year's prison for possessing a rifle; term expires in a fortnight.

7. Sarkis Dertorossian. Photographer, reported an intimate friend of Andon Roustouni, sentenced to death at Angora. House searched by police for seditious papers, but none found. Armenian newspaper, printed in Russia twenty-five years ago, and a seal, bearing "Society for Agriculture," found; also £T. 200 in gold. Seal alleged to have been made twenty years ago, when intention existed to form a Society for improving agriculture. Prisoner said to be worth 1,500 liras. Has lived in Adana during past eight years. Case before Courts.

Adana, September 27, 1893.

Inclosure 4 in No. 216.

Acting Consul-General Blech to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Smyrna, October* 9, 1893.

WITH reference to your despatch calling for information concerning the accuracy of statements current respecting the detention of Armenians without cause in the prisons of certain localities, I have the honour to report that Mr. Vice-Consul Jones (to whom, as well as to the British Vice-Consul at Adalia, I applied for information) informs me that he has reported to you direct so far as Rhodes is concerned on this subject in his despatch of the 12th ultimo, and that Mr. Kenn now states that nothing has transpired at Adalia respecting such detention of Armenians in the prisons of Konia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. BLECH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 216.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, October* 11, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that in the course of a visit I paid to the Governor-General of this vilayet this morning allusion was naturally made to the recent trial of Armenians implicated in the seditious movement, and I took the opportunity of asking his Excellency to tell me the number of men in prison at Angora, at the present moment, under charges connected with that movement.

Abédin Pasha, who has shown no reluctance in speaking to me freely on the subject, stated that there were now only four Armenians under arrest on political charges, viz.:—

1. Dieran G. Gulbenguian, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment by the Court of Angora, and now awaiting the verdict of the Court of Cassation of Constantinople.

2. Alexander O. Gaidzakian, son of Dr. Gaidzakian of Adana, sent here about six weeks ago by the authorities of that vilayet for trial, on the charge of being a member of the Cæsarea Revolutionary Committee.

3 and 4. Two men awaiting their trial since May last. They are charged with having posted up seditious placards at Deuck-Maaden (Caza Keshkine).

In further despatches I shall have the honour to refer fully to these cases as they now stand.

With regard to the Armenians lodged in other prisons of this vilayet, I have not yet been able to obtain any reliable information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 6 in No. 216.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, October* 18, 1893.

IN my despatch of the 11th instant I mentioned that, among others, there were two Armenians awaiting their trial on the charge of posting up seditious placards at Denek-Maaden in the Kir-Chéir Sandjak.

I have now the honour to complete the information I have since obtained with reference to their case.

It appears that, in consequence of the posting up of a number of seditious placards on the telegraph poles of Denek-Maaden, forty-two Armenians were arrested on the charge of being connected with the matter.

The wording of these placards was somewhat similar to that of those previously posted up in Cæsarea and other places, but they were not printed.

Preliminary inquiries were instituted, and only thirteen men were retained in prison, all the others being liberated. Later on four more were released, leaving nine, whose names are: Bedros, Karagheuz, Avadis, Philipos, Agopian, Kéropé, Kevork, Artin and Onik.

Suspicion seems to have rested more heavily on two of the above, and they were sent here, I suppose, with the intention of including them, if possible, in the trial of Professor Thoumayan and his fellow prisoners, but this was not done and they were duly sent back to Denek-Maaden, where they have since been kept under arrest with the seven others who were not sent here.

The only reasons assigned to account for the delay in their trial are that the judicial authorities of Angora were fully occupied with the other important trials and that since taking this case in hand they have been waiting in hopes of procuring more evidence. I have, however, been given to understand that these men will be shortly put on their trial at Denek-Maaden, and that there is a probability of seven, if not all, being acquitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 7 in No. 216.

Colonel Trotter to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Beyrout, October* 12, 1893.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch of , I have the honour to transmit herewith a list of the Armenian prisoners in confinement at Acre, giving details as to the nature of the crimes of which they are accused, the length of their sentences, and other details.

It is hardly necessary to state that this document has not been obtained from official Returns. I applied to various sources for the information required, and was furnished by different individuals with two lists, which were practically identical, and I have good reason for supposing that the information given is correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 8 in No. 216.

LIST of Armenian Prisoners at Acre.

No. d'ordre.	Noms.	Age.	Occupation.	Domicile. Vilayet ou Sandjak.	Domicile. Ville ou Village.	Arrêté. A la Date	Arrêté. Décret du Tribunal de	Condamné. Quantité de Condamnation.	Condamné. Exigible	Arrivé à Saint-Jean d'Acre. Exigible	Arrivé à Saint-Jean d'Acre. Mois	Observation Générale.
1	Ohanes Mouratian	45	Tailleur	Mouch	Mouch	1892	Bitlis	"	6	1893	Janvier	Dans cette liste, hors de ceux qui sont condamnés aux galères tous les autres bien qu'exilés sont emprisonnés dans un khan sous surveillance; eux-mêmes payent le loyer de leur prison et sont absolument privés de toute communication. Excepté 300 drames de paie par jour ils sont privés de toute autre subvention de médecin et de médicaments.
2	Arsène Bédrossian	26	Drapier	"	"	1890	"	"	6	1892	Octobre	
3	Vartan Kévorkéguian	28	Propriétaire	"	"	1890	"	"	15	1893	Juillet	
4	Mihran Kalfayan	35	Cordonnier	"	"	1890	"	"	15	1893	Octobre	
5	Hagopos Avédissian	31		"	"	1892	"	"	6	1892	Juillet	
6	Mesrop Yeghiazarian	30		"	"	1892	"	"	6	1893	Juillet	
7	Serarbid Kéchichian	37	Maître d'École	"	"	1890	"	"	6	1892	Octobre	
8	Nersès Adjémian	41	Tailleur	"	"	1890	"	"	6	1893	Janvier	
9	Garo Altinélinian	33	Maître d'École	"	"	1890	"	"	6	1893	Novembre	
10	Ohannès Chahinian	28	Mason	"	"	1891	Mouch	"	6	1894	Janvier	
11	Mihran Sédéfian	26	Maître d'École	"	"	1890	Bitlis	"	6	1894	"	
12	Mesrop Ipékian	45	Maître d'École	"	"	1890	"	"	6	1894	"	
13	Bédros Kéfélian	43	Agriculteur	"	"	1890	"	"	6	1894	"	
14	Mihran Ohanessian	25		"	"	1890	"	"	6	1894	"	
15	Mesrop Mardirossian	30		"	"	1890	"	"	6	1894	"	
16	Sahag Hatchadourian	32	Tanneur	"	"	1890	"	"	6	1894	"	
17	Varoujan Samuélian	24	Tailleur	Erzeroum	Erzeroum	1890	"	"	6	1894	"	
18	Abraham Vartabédian	24	Savetier	"	"	1890	"	"	6	1894	"	
19	Mesrop Kévorkian	69	Potier	Mouch	"	1891	"	"	6	1894	"	
(1) 20	Mesrop Kévorkéssian	30	Propriétaire	"	"	1890	Mouch	"	5	1893	Novembre	
(1) 21	Kévork Gougassian	27	Agriculteur	"	"	1890	"	"	5	1893	"	
(2) 22	Simon Vartabet	50	Prêtre	"	"	1892	"	"	10	1892	Novembre	
23	Ohannès Mouradian	70		"	"	1892	"	"	10	1892	Octobre	
(3) 24	Mesrop Ohanessian	30	Agriculteur	"	"	1892	"	"	10	1892	Juillet	
25	Artin Mélikdjian	90		"	"	1892	"	"	10	1892	"	
26	Simon Kangounlian	65	Tailleur	né à Erzeroum	domicilié à Mouch	1892	"	"	5	1892	Mouch	
(4) 27		26	Directeur d'École			1892	"	"	10	1892	"	

(1) Du village Dérik.
(2) Du village Gop.
(3) Du village Hanzachékh.
(4) Directeur des Écoles du Sandjak de Mouch de la "Société Unie" Arménienne.

No. d'Ordre.	Noms.	Age Approximatif.	Occupation.	Domicile.		Arrêté		Condamné			Arrivé à Saint-Jean d'Acre.		Observation Générale.
				Vilayet ou Sandjak.	Ville ou Village.	A	A la Date	Devant les Tribunaux de	Genre de Condamnation.	Années.	Année.	Mois.	
(1) 28	Garabet Nathanian ..	51	Commerçant..	Van ..	Van ..	Van ..	1892	Van ..	Exilé en forteresse	15	1893	Novembre	
(2) 29	Artin Djanghilian ..	30	Commerce ..	,, ..	,, ..	Constantinople	1890	Constantinople	Galère..	101	1890	,,	
30	Pesos Mariuian ..	31	Photographe	Trébizonde ..	Trébizonde ..	Trébizonde ..	1890	,,	Exilé ..	..	1891	,,	
(3) 31	Kirkor Kledjian ..	24	Étudiant ..	Sivas ..	Divrik ..	Constantinople	1890	,,	,, ..	..	1891	Février	
32	Nigoghos Balhalian ..	42	Commerce ..	,, ..	Sivas ..	,,	1890	,,	,, ..	..	1891	Août	
(4) 33	Petros Tompetian ..	28	Journaliste ..	Erivan ..	Vagarchabad	,,	1892	,,	,, ..	..	1893	Mai	
34	Artin Natanian ..	35	Tailleur ..	Sivas ..	Sivas ..	,,	1890	,,	Ex. fort.	15	1890	,,	
35	Kasbar Ghiulbenkian	50	Avocat ..	Césarée ..	Talass ..	,,	1888	,,	Exilé ..	101	1892	,,	
36	Aristoghus Vartabed..	45	Prêtre ..	Constantinople	Constantinople	,,	1891	,,	,, ..	..	1892	Février	
37	Yervant Boyadjian ..	30	,, ..	,,	,,	,,	1891	,,	,, ..	..	1892	Août	
(5) 38	Missak Dakessian ..	35	Secrétaire ..	,,	,,	,,	1893	,,	,, ..	..	1893	,,	
39	Gargaros Agopian ..	38	..	,,	,,	,,	1892	Nijdé ..	,, ..	..	1902	,,	
40	Agop ,, ..	28	..	Boursa ..	..	,,	1892	,, ..	,, ..	..	1892	,,	
41	Yeranus Etropian ..	26	Colporteur ..	Constantinople	Constantinople	Nijdé ..	1893	Constantinople	,, ..	..	1896	Mars	
42	Missak Iskats ..	24	Agriculteur ..	Bitlis ..	Alizerman ..	,, ..	1891	Monch ..	Galère..	4	1893	,,	
43	Manouk Mardirchian	24	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	Constantinople	1891	,, ..	,, ..	4	1896	,,	
(6) 44	Sayat Sagatelian ..	35	,, ..	,, ..	Garni ..	Alizerman ..	1891	,, ..	,, ..	4	1893	Septembre	
45	Kasbar Ohatessian ..	35	,, ..	,, ..	Pertagh ..	Garni ..	1891	,, ..	,, ..	4	1893	Janvier	

(1) Depuis de longues années membre du Conseil d'Administration et des Tribunaux du Vilayet de Van. Par intimité avec le Vali de Van condamné sans procès sous l'accusation de communiquer avec les révolutionnaires Arméniens d'Europe, de faciliter les faits des bandes armées sur les montagnes et de leur donner toutes sortes de facilités pour le passage de la frontière Perse, et d'avoir empêché l'organisation des troupes Kurdes dites "Hamidié-Alai."

(2) Condamné par-devant les Tribunaux Militaires à la peine capitale, comme auteur-en-chef de l'émeute de Comu-Capou à Constantinople, sa condamnation a été changée par le Sultan aux galères à perpétuité.

(3) Sans procès ni condamnation, et bien que gracié par le Sultan, exilés temporairement à Acre, comme d'incorrigibles révolutionnaires.

(4) Sujet Russe, sans procès ni condamnation exilé à Acre par le Grand Vizir.

(5) Sans procès ni condamnation.

(6) Condamnés à quatre années de galères comme de simples brigands, mais s'ils n'étaient pas pour cause politique on ne les enverrait pas hors de leur vilayet.

NOTE.—Outre ceux-ci il y a encore six galériens Arméniens à Acre condamnés pour causes criminelles.

No. 217.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 480.) *Constantinople, October 26, 1893.*

MY LORD,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a further report from Mr. Consul Chamberlain respecting the case of four men imprisoned since February last on the charge of conspiring to resent the five outrages subsequently condemned and hanged at Angora.

In a conversation I had to-day with the Grand Vizier, I brought their case, as well as that of Garabed Agop Ogden Agop, charged with harbouring them, to the notice of his Highness.

The Grand Vizier recognized this hardship that had been inflicted on these five men by keeping them in prison for eight months without a trial, and promised that their case should be at once investigated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Enclosure in No. 217.

Consul Chamberlain to Sir Clare Ford.

Angora, October 19, 1893.

SIR,

IN my despatch of the 4th instant, I had the honour to report that, in addition to the four prisoners awaiting their trial here on "political" charges, there were four Armenians who had been kept here for several months to be put on their trial on "criminal" charges.

I now beg leave to furnish your Excellency with further particulars about these men whose names are Manouk Ogden Artin, Sarf Teheben Ogden Bedros, Keshish Ogden Mgherditch, and Garabed Agop Ogden Agop, to whom must be added Tchakir Ogden Artin, accused of giving them shelter in his house.

According to the official account these four men, together with another man who was killed, had been escorted by them, the Armenian Murdir of Chemeshek to which place most of the men belonged, to arm themselves and rescue the five brigands, Gulhenekh, Pedros, Tomas, Azzoumanian, and Mirdjan (subsequently hanged) whilst they were being conveyed to Angora for trial.

Information as to their intention having been received by the Kaimakam of Beghazlian, this official sent a small force of zaptiehs, ordelis, and armed villagers to the spot indicated by the informants, and where they duly came across the would-be rescuers at a place called Selemli-Kenpru. A short skirmish ensued, with the result that one man on each side was killed, two of the Kaimakam's men were wounded and three of his horses shot, but the whole band was captured and sent to Angora.

This occurred last February, and since then the aforementioned Tchakir Ogden Artin and eight others were arrested and conveyed here, too, on suspicion of having been accomplices of the others. (On the 5th instant, three days after my arrival, these last eight men were liberated owing to the want of evidence implicating them in any way.)

The Murdir of Chemeshek was brought here last spring for a few days to be examined, but was not imprisoned.

In answer to my inquiries as to why these men were still kept in prison without trial, I was told that the more important trials had necessitated the attention of the Judicial authorities, and had necessitated the postponement of this case, and that now the delay was prolonged by the difficulty encountered in procuring the presence here of the zaptiehs, ordelis, and villagers who had taken part in the capture, and of other witnesses for the prosecution.

The accused and their friends, on the contrary, maintain that they were not brigands, and did not intend resisting the other prisoners, but were smugglers of

tobacco, and were armed in order to protect their contraband goods. The authorities, however, state that when asked to give details as to the place where the tobacco was hidden they were unable to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 218.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 490.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 26, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that in my conversation to-day with the Grand Vizier, I informed his Highness that, in accordance with his own request, I wish to draw his attention to two cases of apparent hardship and injustice to the Armenian subjects of the Sultan which had been brought under my notice.

The first case was that of Alex. Gaidzakian, details of which were communicated to me by Mr. Consul Cumberbatch in his despatch of the 13th instant (copy inclosed).

The second case was that of Pastor Mardiros, of Gémérek, which was pressed on my notice by the Rev. Joseph Greene, an American missionary resident in Stamboul. The name of Pastor Mardiros was one of those already mentioned to the Grand Vizier by Sir Arthur Nicolson.

The accusation against the pastor is, that having been shown one of the seditious placards by an illiterate man, who asked him to read it to him, he failed to communicate the fact to the authorities, although he advised the man to burn it, and have nothing to do with such matters.

He was further charged with having a letter in his possession addressed to him by the Young Men's Christian Association, though it does not appear that this letter was of a seditious character.

In spite of twenty years' blameless life as a pastor, M. Mardiros was condemned at Angora to fifteen years' penal servitude, since reduced to six years.

I pointed out to the Grand Vizier that both these cases appeared to me to be pre-eminently ones in which the Sultan might properly exercise his prerogative of pardon. His Highness asked me to give him all the details in writing. This I have now caused to be done, and I have his Highness' assurance that both cases shall receive the most careful consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 218.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, October* 13, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a Petition received by me yesterday, and purporting to come from Alexander O. Gaidzakian, at present in the Angora prison on the charge of being connected with the Cesarea Revolutionary Committee.

In this Petition Gaidzakian denies all knowledge of the Committee, and pleads his youth at the time of his alleged complicity with the revolutionary movement.

The authorities here seem to know very little respecting this prisoner, who is the son of the Rev. Dr. O. Gaidzakian, a Protestant Armenian gentleman of Adana, who has resided in the United States, and holds diplomas of that country.

It appears that he is a student of the Protestant College at Beyrouth, and was on a visit to his father at Adana, when he was arrested and sent here about a month ago.

I was informed yesterday that certain papers in connection with this case had

just arrived from Adana, and there are hopes that either his trial or his dismissal may now be reasonably expected.

I shall not fail to report anything further I may learn as to the evidence the authorities may have to justify Gaidzakian's detention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 218.

Petition of Alex. O. Gaidzakian.

Most honourable English Consul,
Dear Sir, *Angora, October* 8, 1893.

I AM the son of Rev. O. Gaidzakian, M.D., in Adana. Since two years I was studying in Syrian Protestant College in Beyrouth. Unfortunately I shall not go to my classes at the beginning of the next year, because the college is going to begin at the 12th October. On the other hand, I am in the prison since one month and a-half.

When I came to my home in the vacation the Government caught me, bringing to here, they put me into the prison. I do not know what I did do, but the officers asked me that I was the Principal of the Society of Armenians in Cesarea, according to the word of a few members of that Society.

But when I was in Cæsarea I was 15 years old. How can he be a Principal of such a Society of Armenians one who is 15 years old? As for me, it is absolutely impossible.

I do not know anything about this Society; but, again, I am in the prison without any mischief.

I beseech and pray you to help your servant. My dear Sir, God knows that I did not do anything.

I am a young man of 19 years old. I am a student. I need to study. My Lord, you know better than I. What you want you can do it. Please excuse me that I don't know your address.

Your humble servant,
(Signed) ALEX. O. GAIDZAKIAN.

No. 219.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 491.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 26, 1893.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 416 of the 30th August, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Consul Cumberbatch, relative to the case of Dikran Gulbenkian, at present in prison at Angora, under sentence of ten years' imprisonment for complicity in the recent revolutionary movement.

I fear that it is clear, from Mr. Consul Cumberbatch's second despatch,* that Dikran Gulbenkian was actively engaged in the revolutionary movement at Cesarea. On the other hand, it is nearly three years since the acts for which he was condemned took place, and, as far as I am aware, he has in the meantime abstained from mixing himself up with the Armenian political movement.

In view, however, of the apparently clear evidence against him, I have not felt justified in bringing his case to the notice of the Grand Vizier or pressing for a commutation of his sentence apart from that of all his fellow-convicts.

I trust that my action may meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

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* Inclosure 3 in No. 219.

Inclosure 1 in No. 219.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)
Angora, October 12, 1893.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a Petition received by me yesterday, and purporting to come from Dicran G. Gulbenguian, at present in the Angora prison.

Gulbenguian was tried by the Court here on the 22nd August, and was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for complicity in the recent revolutionary movement.

Full details of the trial, with comments thereon, were duly communicated by Mr. Newton to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires on the 22nd August, and I have thought it my duty to send the Petition to your Excellency, as the case appears to be one worthy of the consideration of the Turkish Government.

Up to yesterday the *procès-verbal* of Gulbenguian's trial had not been returned to the Court here from Constantinople, where it had been sent to be dealt with by the Court of Cassation.

In the meantime, I have made inquiries, and am satisfied that Gulbenguian and the other prisoners here have nothing to complain as to their treatment on the part of the prison authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 219.

Petition of Dicran Gulbenguian.

Angora, October 9, 1893.

Most honourable Sir,

I FIND this first opportunity to congratulate your Greatness' office, from a dark prison, and I am sure that you will receive my hearty desire for your welcome.

Sir, I am sure that you are already informed of me. It has been almost six months that I am arrested in prison for Armenian case; they condemn me for ten years, seven weeks ago, and yet I wait for final conclusion. Excuse me, Sir, if I dare to invite your Greatness' mercy upon me. Please, Sir, have mercy to help me in any way you can.

Except me, there are yet five or six persons who wait here long time for this case, of whom you will be informed by this man who brings you this letter, he will speak to you the truth; he is a trusty man.

Excuse me, Sir, because I know not your address. Receive my hearty compliments.

Your humble servant,
(Signed) DICRAN G. GULBENGUIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 219.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

(Confidential.)
Angora, October 17, 1893.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch, Confidential, of the 12th instant, I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following information, regarding the Armenian prisoner Dicran Gulbenguian, which I have from a trustworthy private source.

About three years ago D. Gulbenguian was at the Cæsarea Protestant School as a teacher, having graduated at the Marsovan College. He took every opportunity of secretly speaking seditious language to the boys of the school, telling them what ought to be done to improve their position. His conduct passed unperceived for some time until one day he collected several of the school boys in a field outside the town, and openly told them that a Committee had been formed to work for the independence of Armenia, and that every one should be provided with arms, and be prepared to help the cause. Most of the boys, on returning home, related what had taken place, and

several of their fathers reported the matter to the School Board, who inquired into the matter, and, finding that Gulbenguian had been inciting the boys, they sent him back to Marsovan, where he subsequently engaged in trade.

I send this information to your Excellency, because it corroborates, to a certain extent, the reference to Gulbenguian made by Kéropé Papasian, who lately died in a lunatic asylum at Constantinople, and whose deposition appears to have been the only evidence forthcoming at the trial to show Gulbenguian's connection with the Cæsarea Revolutionary Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 220.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 491 A. Secret.)
Constantinople, October 26, 1893.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, copies of further correspondence relative to the case of Dikran Gulbenkian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

Sir Clare Ford to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, October 21, 1893.

GULBENKIAN'S case is creating a good deal of interest in England, and I was in the act of sending in a representation to the Grand Vizier on his behalf when I received your despatch of the 17th.

Is your information sufficiently sure to justify me in throwing up the case, and giving Her Majesty's Government my reasons for so doing?

Inclosure 2 in No. 220.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

(Telegraphic.)
Angora, October 22, 1893.

YOUR Excellency's telegram of to-day.

Information about Gulbenkian was given me by one of the chief members of the Protestant community, who was member of the board of Cæsarea College, and took part in Gulbenkian's dismissal. I have every reason to place confidence in the truth of his statements, and I learn he has shown a great deal of interest in Gulbenkian's case. I cannot discover any reason to suggest private spite.

Inclosure 3 in No. 220.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

(Secret.)
Angora, October 24, 1893.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of the 22nd instant, inquiring as to whether my information about Dikran Gulbenkian, as reported in my despatch of the 17th instant, was sufficiently trustworthy to justify your Excellency in abandoning his case, and in giving the reasons for doing so to Her Majesty's Government.

In answering your Excellency I stated that my informant was one of the principal members of the Armenian Protestant community here, and was a member of the Cæsarea School Board, which dismissed Gulbenkian for the reasons given in my afore-

mentioned despatch, and had actually attended the meeting of the Board when the matter was discussed.

I beg leave to repeat that I have every reason to place confidence in his statement regarding Gulbenkian, and that I can discover no reason to account for the possibility of his having been induced to divulge the incident out of personal spite; on the contrary, I know that he has shown more interest in Gulbenkian's personal welfare, whilst the latter has been here, than in that of any other prisoner.

My informant's position and respectability lend still further weight to his statements which, in this case, he was only induced to make confidentially and under the impression, which is general here, that there was no chance of Gulbenkian's fate being altered by anything he might tell me.

It is not for me to express any opinion as to whether the evidence brought before the Court was sufficient to justify the severe sentence inflicted upon Gulbenkian, but, personally, I venture to express a hope that your Excellency will not deem it necessary to relax your kind efforts on his behalf on account of the information sent by me, and which I thought it my duty to communicate to your Excellency because it corroborated the deposition laid before the Court, of a man (Keropé Papasian) who was subsequently declared to have gone mad, and whose testimony could not be relied upon, though in my humble opinion it does not necessarily imply that Gulbenkian actually played an active part in the revolutionary movement after his departure from the Cesarea school.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 221.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 495.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 28, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of an interesting Memorandum, which has been drawn up for me by Colonel Chermside, on the present condition of the Hamidieh regiments and the general situation in the Erzeroum and Van districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Memorandum.

SINCE my Reports on the Hamidieh cavalry of 1892-93, in which I mentioned that a competent staff of regular cavalry officers had been gazetted as Commanders, Squadron Commanders, and Instructors to over thirty Hamidieh militia cavalry regiments in the IVth "Ordu" or Military Circumscription, nothing has been done in the way of embodiment, drilling, or technical instruction.

Travellers in the interior have usually noticed in Kurdish villages and in the streets of towns a few men in the Hamidieh uniform or with the silver badge. This latter was, it is said, abused, being worn by Kurds with no title to it, and not, therefore, invested with the privileges granted in return for their voluntary service. Local silversmiths in the Van district, and possibly all over the 4th Military Circumscription, have now been forbidden to manufacture it.

The Kurds have been, I am told on good authority, unusually turbulent and bellicose this season; they have thus incurred the displeasure of the Government, and rumours are rife among the Armenians that the Hamidieh regiments are to be abolished, or very much reduced in numbers. In the valley of the Mourad Su, branch of the Euphrates between Van and Erzeroum, the Kurds have long been prosecuting tribal feuds, and the Haideranlees, Hassananlees and Tibranlees have been fighting among themselves. In May, Emin Pasha of the Haideranlee and Hussein Pasha of Patnotey were summoned to Erzingian on this account by the General commanding the army corps, and more recently troops have been sent to some of the tribal districts, and the leaders arrested.

A general order for disarmament of the Kurds has been issued in the Erzeroum and Van districts, and any Kurds who are indiscreet enough to come armed to the large towns have their rifles taken away from them, but no wholesale measures have been taken in rural districts.

Although the organization and instruction has made no more progress in the Diarbekir part of the circumscription than elsewhere, the Kurds of the Hamidieh force are reported to be behaving well in that district.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Colonel.*

October 21, 1893.

No. 222.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 499. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 27, 1893.*

IN my despatch No. 482 of the 13th instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship a conversation I had held with the Sultan, when I pointed out the bad effect which had resulted from the appointment of a certain Hosref Pasha to a post of trust and importance at Marsovan, a post which he was wholly unfitted to hold as he was proved to have instigated the burning of the American College at that place.

The Sultan promised me that he would inquire into the matter, and, at a private audience I had with His Imperial Majesty to-day, he stated to me that he had informed himself about the character and antecedents of Hosref Pasha, and that, in view of the representations I had made, he had had the Pasha removed from his present post and transferred to another in Arabia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 223.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 500.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 28, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the increase of Armenian emigration to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October 5, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a steady and continuous movement of emigration is going on among the Armenians of the frontier districts of this vilayet into Russian territory. This is most noticeable in the Passin plain, and in Alashgerd, whence it is said that 400 entire families, numbering over 2,000 persons, have left for Russia within the past year. This is independent of the individual cases of men who go over in large numbers into Russia, nominally to seek work, or to perform the pilgrimage to Etchmiazin, and frequently do not return. No obstacle is now placed in the way of emigrants by the Russian authorities, who distribute them temporarily among the villages, until vacant lands can be assigned them, chiefly from those abandoned by Mussulmans who have emigrated to Turkey.

There can be little doubt that many more Armenians would emigrate from the districts lying further in the interior if it were not for the opposition of the authorities, and the dangers that beset the road to the frontier. For instance, the majority of the inhabitants of Kara-Tchoban in the Khinis district, the attack on which village by

Kurds I had the honour to report in my despatch of the 18th August, sought to emigrate; but permission to do so has been refused them by the Government.

The failure of the crops in 1892, and the indifferent harvest of this season, have reduced the agricultural population to great distress, which is aggravated in the districts above referred to by the oppression and exactions of the Kurds, and the remissness of the Local Government in maintaining public security.

I learn that many of the emigrants have made over their lands and houses to cover their debts and arrears of taxes, and have left the country with the few personal effects they could carry with them. The loss to the country is considerable, as the emigrants are good agriculturists and regular taxpayers by comparison with the Kurds into whose hands their farms have mostly fallen, and the result will be felt in decreased production and diminished revenue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 224.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received November 20.*)

(No. 510.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 6, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 480 of the 26th ultimo, respecting the case of five Armenians imprisoned at Angora, I have the honour to report that Vekil Effendi, the Secretary of the Grand Vizier, called on me this morning and assured me that the individuals in question would be tried immediately ("incessamment"), and a report of the proceedings sent to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 225.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received November 20.*)

(No. 511.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 6, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 490 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I received a visit this morning from the Secretary of the Grand Vizier, Vekil Effendi, who had been instructed to communicate to me a telegram sent to his Highness by the Procureur-Général of Angora.

The information contained in this document was to the effect that the Armenian, named Alexander Gaidzakian, would be tried at Angora immediately ("incessamment") on a charge of being criminally connected with the revolutionary movement, and that he was an accomplice of Dikran Gulbenkian (already tried and condemned for revolutionary practices), with whom he had travelled from Angora to Caesarea some four years ago. Owing to a doubt as to his identity he was only quite recently arrested at Adana.

Alexander Gaidzakian is one of the persons whom I mentioned to the Grand Vizier as a proper object for the Imperial clemency owing to his extreme youth, for he could not have been more than 15 years of age at the time he is alleged to have committed the crimes of which he is accused.

As regards the Pastor Mardiros, Vekil Effendi stated that his sentence has been commuted from fifteen to six years' exile in Tripoli, and held out no hope of a further diminution being made in his case.

I understood from Vekil Effendi that the language and conduct of Thoumaïan as reported by Rustem Pasha, had created great annoyance here, and indisposed the Ottoman Government to put a generous construction on Armenian misdemeanours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 226.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received November 20.*)

(No. 514.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 510 of the 6th November, reporting the answer sent me by the Grand Vizier on the subject of the five men implicated in an alleged attempt to rescue the brigands subsequently hanged at Angora, I have the honour to state that I have to-day received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora reporting that communications have recently been exchanged between the local authorities and Constantinople, with the result that a telegram has been sent to the Kadi of Baghazlian to take the deposition of several witnesses for the prosecution of these men, and to send the papers to Angora with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 227.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received November 20.*)

(No. 515.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 488 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a further despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora on the subject of nine men accused of posting up seditious placards at Denek-Maaden.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, November 6, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th October, I have the honour to report that the "Juge d'Instruction" of Angora has terminated the examination of the evidence against the nine men accused of having been implicated in the posting up of seditious placards at Denek-Maaden, and has found that there is not sufficient proof against five of them, viz., E. Kevork, Hekim Oglou Artin, Kassab Oglou Onik, Hadji Artin Oglou Kiraghoz, and Tomassian Avadis.

A telegram was consequently sent by the Governor-General to the Kaïmakam of Denek-Maaden on the 4th instant, to set these men at liberty.

The remaining four, viz., K. Garabet Oglou Bedros, Baklian Agopian, Baklian Kéropé, and Tomassian Philippos, have been committed on the above-named charge, and will be tried in due course at Kir-Chéir.

Appeal against the decision of that Court will lie either to the Superior Tribunal of Angora or to that of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 228.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 516.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 511 of the 6th instant, on the subject of Alex. Gaidzakian, I have the honour to report that I am informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Angora that his trial was fixed for yesterday, the 8th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a telegram to say that Gaidzakian has been acquitted.

F. C. F.

No. 229.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 517.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1893.*

WITH reference to my previous despatches on the subject of Armenians still under arrest in this country, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora reporting the release of Pelangian Garabet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, November 6, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, as far as I have been able to learn, the only other Armenian under arrest in this vilayet, for alleged complicity in the recent revolutionary movement, and not mentioned in any of my previous despatches, was a certain Pelangian Garabet.

This man, it seems, was arrested after the termination of the proceedings against Professor Thounaïan and his co-accused, and was imprisoned at Sungurlu on the charge of being "Baron Amroh," mentioned in the list of pseudonyms said to have been adopted by the active members of the Secret Committee, and of having been the delegate of Sungurlu at the Marsovan meetings.

The examining Judge at Angora has not found any proof of his connection with the Committee, and has decided upon his liberation, which, I understand, has been effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 230.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 523. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 12, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a private letter which has been addressed to me by Mr. Eliot, Second Secretary to Her Majesty's Embassy, on his return from a short trip he has recently made to Angora.

I feel confident that your Lordship will peruse it with pleasure, as it is full of information, and gives a capital insight into the actual condition of the district which Mr. Eliot visited.

His remarks on Armenian affairs are most interesting.

What Mr. Eliot recounts with regard to his visit to Istanos is particularly worthy of notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Mr. Eliot to Sir Clare Ford.

(Private and Confidential.)
Dear Sir Clare, *Constantinople, October 30, 1893.*

I HAVE just returned from my expedition to Angora, and, as you desire it, will proceed to chronicle my "impressions de voyage."

The journey from Constantinople to Angora by the new railway is not marked by any particular interest. It might easily be done within the twenty-four hours, even at the modest rate of speed which the Company employ, but Orientals do not like night travelling. They are accustomed to arrive at a khan at sunset, and sleep comfortably, and, in obedience to this custom, the train halts for the night at the station of Eski Shehir, which is about half-way. When I passed through a few cases of cholera had occurred in the town, and a cordon was drawn round the station, beyond which travellers were not allowed to pass. The first part of the journey is extremely beautiful, as the train winds its way up wooded gorges, but when it once reaches the plateau nothing is to be seen but a vast plain, mostly uncultivated, and covered with coarse yellowish grass, and bordered by mountains of a strange greenish colour. The line is fairly comfortable, but, as on many Oriental, and particularly on Russian, railways, there seems to be no proportion between the amount of time expended and the business done. The train stops regularly a quarter of an hour at stations built in the middle of a desert, where there is obviously no goods traffic, and where the wildest imagination could hardly expect a passenger to appear.

Angora consists of a hill covered with very white houses, with a ring of red (and, I believe, perfectly useless) fortifications round the top. Its peculiarly spick and span appearance is due, I am told, to the fact that the authorities have recently had it whitewashed. The streets are naturally very precipitous, but, apart from this, not bad, and quite as well paved as those of Moscow and many other Russian towns. There are no very remarkable buildings or antiquities, but old stones covered with Latin or Greek inscriptions may be seen in the walls of many of the houses. As might be expected, very large cats and goats are to be seen everywhere. A new European town is gradually growing up round the railway station, which is about half-a-mile from the city, and civilization is represented by a dirty German inn. Round the town are several fertile valleys filled with vineyards, where all the richer inhabitants live during the summer, and only come into town during the day to transact their business.

You ask me to give you an idea of what is the administration of a Turkish Armenian province. Angora is a vilayet under a Vali or Governor-General, and is composed of four Governments, variously called Sandjaks, Livas, or Mutessariflks, three of which—Yuzgat, Kirshehir, and Keisarié—have Governors or Mutessarifs, while the fourth, called Angora, is under the direct administration of the Vali himself. Under the sandjak the next unit is the kaza, or district, administered by a Kaïmakam, or Lieutenant, and under this again is the nahia, or village, whose Headman is styled Mudir. The superior officers—Valis, Mutessarifs, and Kaïmakams—are invariably Turks, even in places where the Turkish population consists merely of officials; but in villages where the population is exclusively Christian, the Mudir is generally a Christian too. In theory, all these appointments are filled from the ranks of the Civil Service according to order of seniority, young men who have passed the examination in certain schools being chosen as Mudirs, and then in due course promoted to be Kaïmakams, and so on. But it is hardly necessary to say that this arrangement exists principally on paper, and that the greatest irregularity and favouritism are shown in all appointments of any value. This administration is of course purely civil. In most Governments there is a corresponding

military hierarchy, but in Angora there are no troops to speak of, and, though a Commander-in-chief is stationed at the capital, his duties are almost exclusively confined to raising recruits. The only military force is a small corps of zaptiehs. There is also a municipal organization under the Beledizze Reioi, or Mayor, who in large towns presides over a Council formed by the Moukhtars, or elected Headmen, of the various parishes. As the different religious bodies inhabit different quarters, Christians are generally represented by a Christian Moukhtar, and I am told that in mixed districts it is usual to elect two Moukhtars, one Christian and one Turk. I may observe that as a rule it is chiefly in quite large towns, like Angora itself, that Mahommedans and Christians live together in anything like equal quantities. The villages and small towns are mostly either entirely Turkish with no Christians, or mainly Christian with a few Turkish officials. Moukhtars are also elected in small villages where there is no Mayor, and are generally responsible for the proper payment of taxes and the production of defaulters. At Angora the Municipal Council is composed of two Christians and two Turks, and, as the population consists of 18,000 Turks and 11,000 Christians, this is fair enough. There are two Courts at Angora for civil and criminal cases respectively, the Chief Judges of which are always Mahommedans, but when a case is tried they are assisted by Assessors, one of whom at least must be a Christian if the accused is of that religion. There is a Court of Inferior Instance at the residence of every Kaïmakam, in which similar arrangements are made for the trial of Christians by non-Mahommedan law. The verdict is given according to the opinion of the majority provided it includes the Cadi himself, that is to say, the two Assessors cannot combine to outvote the Cadi if they wish to do so.

The Governor-General, as Head of a whole vilayet, is assisted by a Council composed of four official members, all Turks, and four elected members, of whom two are Turks and two Christians. All the members receive a salary of 8*l.* a-month. The Chiefs of the three Christian Churches (Armenian, Greek, and Catholic) are extra members, who are summoned whenever the special interests of their flocks are concerned.

It will be seen from the above that it is only in the municipal arrangements that Christians are at all on a par with Mahommedans. In the administrative and judicial organizations there is always a Mahommedan majority.

The present Vali is Abedin Pasha, an Albanian, but of Greek origin. I saw him several times in his office, and also dined with him. He is unusually well lodged, as there are two Konaks at Angora, one the private residence of the Governor, and the other for official business. Abedin's house is Greek rather than Turkish in its arrangements, and I hear from ladies who have been into his harem that his wife (he has only one) is also Greek, though of course a Mahommedan. He was as a youth a member of the guard of honour furnished to Abdul Aziz by the young men of the subject races. His first important appointment was the Inspectorship of the Bourse at Galata, after which he filled various positions in Albania, and was named Turkish Frontier Commissioner in 1879, but was soon recalled to Constantinople on account of a rumour that he had offered to arrange for the cession of Prevesa to Greece for a bribe of 300,000 fr. He was not, however, disgraced, but named Special Commissioner in Diarbekir, and then Vali of Sivas. In both of these positions he showed extreme energy and impartiality, and the British officials occupied with the same question rendered full justice to his merits. Indeed, he was supposed to have erred, if at all, on the side of severity, as he sentenced an immense number, I think 150 persons, officials and others, to banishment, many of which sentences were actually executed. After being about a year in Sivas, he was recalled to Europe with a great flourish of trumpets, and named Governor of Salonica, an appointment which was hailed as heralding every kind of reform and improvement, but before he had been there a month he was summoned to Constantinople in July 1880, and appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs. But this appointment was almost as brief as the last. Before he had time to really give the world a taste of his policy, he incurred the Sultan's displeasure for objecting to a strong remonstrance which it was proposed to make respecting the naval demonstration at Dulcigno, and in October 1880 he was removed from his office. All that I have related of Abedin took place in about a year and a-half; since then he has lived in comparative obscurity, but not uselessly, as it is admitted that his administration of Angora has been both just and successful. He is supposed to have taken sufficient money in his earlier life to make himself a comfortable competence, and now there are no complaints against him for extortion. Popular of course he is not. The Turks mistrust him, and Armenians are never satisfied, for when they are under a good Governor they are annoyed at having no

cause for complaint. It is rather hard on Abedin, who is admitted by all classes to be so just an administrator, that the name of Angora should have lately been so associated with Armenian horrors, and have gained so evil a reputation among the philanthropic public. The fact is, that the persons tried were none of them from the town or sandjak of Angora, but were sent there from neighbouring provinces to insure a better trial than they would have had in their own country.

Abedin is, as might be expected, a somewhat soured and cynical man, but exceedingly agreeable. The first time I saw him he was in his official reception-room, a small apartment with the usual Eastern furniture—some red silk chairs, a stove, a cobweb in the corner, a hole in the window, and a sofa, on which the Vali sat coiled up, dressed in a very old brown suit, with baggy trousers. Cumberbatch had come about a piece of business connected with our protégés, the Armenian Protestants. A year or so ago the Protestant community bought some ground for a church, and the title-deeds were made out in the name of the pastor. A slight difference having arisen between this shepherd and his flock respecting the disposal of the offertory, he suddenly claimed the ground as his own, and refused to give it up. Worse than this, it was impossible to bring him to justice, because the Armenian Protestants, not being a registered community like the Catholics and Gregorians, have no right to prosecute as a corporation. Abedin, however, promised to override the letter of the law, and make arrangements for handing over the ground to its rightful owners. During this conversation, which was long, public business continued. Two or three secretaries sat scribbling on the floor, and people of importance came in from time to time, and either spoke to the Governor in mysterious whispers, or else were motioned to sit down. There was the Mektoubji, or Secretary-General of the Province, a sleek and florid Stamboulí, with elaborate manners and a perpetual smile; the Defterdar, or Chief of the tax-gatherers, a dirty old Jewish renegade from Salonica, who looked the incarnation of extortion and avarice; and the Commander-in-chief, whose uniform buttons had perished in the vain attempt to cope with the aggressive proportions of his figure. The presence of this last-named official was considered a remarkable fact, as he and the Governor are not on speaking terms on account of a private difference; and when he is obliged to pay an official visit at Bairam (which is something like our Christmas or New Year), it is his custom to march in at the head of his army (from twelve to fifteen men), salute, wheel, and exit without a word. The bond which had reconciled these two enemies was the common danger from cholera. The floor of the Governor's room was covered with sanitary notices and quarantine regulations, and these gentlemen were met together to consider what steps should be taken to form a Sanitary Commission. Among those present were the Armenian Catholic Bishop, and the Head of the Dancing Dervishes, a most demure old man in an immensely tall hat and fur coat, who looked as if he was incapable of anything but the most sedate and stately movements. Really one cannot talk of religious jealousy in Angora when such people sit side by side to discuss the rival merits of disinfectants. I let out that I had been at St. Petersburgh during the cholera last year, and rashly allowed myself to be persuaded to write down the precautions taken and the medicines ordered. Subsequent inquiry has revealed that I prescribed hydrochloric acid a hundred times too strong, and I can only hope that I have not burnt out the stomachs of my worthy friends before they received the right medicine. Afterwards I dined with Abedin in his private house, which is clean and well, though simply, furnished. He is a great student of classical Greek authors, and fond of talking on literary subjects.

These Albanians are remarkable men, and perhaps the ablest of Turkish officials, though mistrusted by the Government and banished as far as possible from their own country. I knew another in the person of the late Mehemet Ali, Governor of Bazazid about two years ago, a man with a European education and considerable intelligence, who was purposely kept in the most distant confines of Armenia till he died.

At Angora itself I heard comparatively little of the Armenian question. There were only a few men still in prison, and the Governor promised Cumberbatch that they should be tried as soon as the "Procureur-Général," who was absent, returned to his post. As I wished to see something of Armenian life in the country, I accepted an invitation to visit the village of Istanos with the Protestant pastor, who soon found me out. His name was Odian Effendi. He has made several visits to England and America, and speaks fluent, if somewhat eccentric, English. As an example of his style, I may mention that he showed me his daughter and her suitor, and wishing to explain that they were betrothed said, "They have begotten one another." As a

sign of his European education he wore a very old clerical coat and waistcoat (but, alas! no collar), and somewhere in his travels, for I am loath to suppose it could be the original sin of Armenian blood, he had acquired the disagreeable habit of asking for 5*l.* at odd moments.

Istanos is a large village about 30 miles from Angora, consisting of 700 Gregorian families, 150 Protestant, and about 30 Turkish, the last being nearly all officials. I am obliged to reckon in this Oriental way by families, for no one could give me any other statistics. Armenians, as I need hardly remind your Excellency, are of three kinds—Gregorian, that is, members of the ancient Armenian Church, Catholics, and Protestants. The Catholics live mostly in towns,* and always use their religious designation as if it denoted some national or race distinction. They are disliked by the Gregorians, take no part in the various Armenian movements and propaganda, and often do not even speak Armenian. The Protestants, who are really Presbyterians, are few in number, but naturally attract much attention. They are as much in the bad graces of the Porte as the Gregorians, or more.

Istanos is built in a valley on one bank of a stream, and, like most Oriental towns, up the side of a mountain. On the other bank are pleasant gardens and vineyards, the only building on this side being a large and well-kept Gregorian church. The opposite side is crowned by a series of chapels, schools, and private houses, rigid and militant in all that sanctimoniousness of whitewash, solid stone, and timber, which seems the appropriate exterior of the Presbyterian faith. The lower part of the town, however, is crowded and narrow. We drove up the river on our entry, which struck me as rather odd, but it seemed the correct thing to do, and the quay at the side was certainly picturesquely irregular.

I was much struck with the difference between the general aspect of this country and that of the Erzeroum district, the only other part of Turkish Armenia which I know. Certainly, even there, much exaggeration had been used with regard to the state of the country. I conversed with people over whose horrid deaths the "Daily News" had wept, and entered churches which, only 20 miles away, were said to be burnt down. But there was no denying that the country was in a state of terrorism which paralyzed agriculture and industry, that the Mussulmans cattle were habitually turned into Christian corn, and that, putting Kurds out of the question, no Turkish soldier ever entered a Christian village without taking off all he could carry as a sort of tribute. In all the parts of Angora which I saw, there is no doubt that life and property are practically safe. The soil is not fertile, but otherwise cultivation is in no way hampered, and if any agriculturalists complain it is the Turkish peasantry, to whom the Armenians sell seed at exorbitant rates. As my pastor kept alluding in vague oratorical terms to Turkish misrule and tyranny, I asked him for a plain statement of his complaints. He said his great grievance was that a Turkish policeman always attended his service, not in order to be converted, but to ascertain that there were no politics in the sermon. He was allowed to preach in either Turkish or Armenian, but if he chose the latter language (which the policeman did not understand), he was obliged to give him a written abstract of the discourse. Also the singing of any martial hymn, and in particular "Onward, Christian Soldiers," is strictly interdicted. In England, I believe, this hymn is considered High Church, and would shock any Presbyterian, but in Turkey (as it is prohibited) they burn to sing it. I asked if the authorities in any way interfered with the doctrines he preached or the arrangements of public worship. He said, no; they only objected to the introduction of politics in any form. Also, he said, they prohibited the teaching in the schools of Armenian history or literature. Likewise, the Cadi and other officials, who had need of the services of Christian Assessors, delighted in summoning them on Sunday mornings, and thus diminishing the congregation. Finding, I few, that I was not sufficiently shocked by these enormities, the pastor took a more tragic tone, and began to tell me of all the horrors of Marsovan, &c. He did not, however, cite any atrocities from the neighbourhood of Angora, and, indeed, the only serious complaint at Istanos seemed to be in connection with the collection of taxes. It is hard to judge of the truth of this matter: the Armenians represented that they had to pay, under threats of violence, three or four times as much as they owed. Abedin, with whom I discussed the matter on returning to Angora, solemnly assured me that he did not believe that under his administration anything more than the just taxes were collected. I am inclined to agree with an opinion I heard expressed by impartial third parties, that the great evil of tax

* There are 8,000 in Angora, compared with 3,000 Gregorians.

collecting, in the Vilayet of Angora at least, is not that it is excessive, but that it is irregular. That is to say, a village is forgotten and let off all taxes for two or three years, and then a sudden demand is made for all the arrears when the finances of the inhabitants cannot stand the strain. In judging Armenian complaints of over-taxation, one must admit that they are the most money-grabbing and money-hoarding race in the world, and that they regard any demand for payment as persecution.

I lunched with one of the rich Protestant Armenians. He had certainly the best furnished and most imposing house I have ever seen since leaving Constantinople, and a great air of affluence and even of a certain cleanliness pervaded the establishment. He was a merchant in goats' hair, and had amassed a considerable fortune. His dining-room was ornamented with portraits of half the Royal Families of Europe, selected apparently without any political reason; Mr. Bryce, and five or six pictures of the late Lord Beaconsfield, his house, study, tomb, &c. As far as I could make out, he thought Beaconsfield was the title under which Mr. Gladstone had been elevated to the Peerage. There were plenty of servants, but the dinner was served by his sons; his wife and daughters came in and looked on, but would not eat. He told me he had recently been released from a nine months' imprisonment. All his efforts, he said, had always been directed to making his co-religionists pay their taxes, and by his persuasion he had collected quite a large sum for presentation to the authorities, when suddenly the Mustantik, or "Juge d'Instruction," arrested him arbitrarily on the charge of embezzling public funds, took the money from him, extorted the same sum again from the inhabitants, and kept him in prison till he had paid a very large ransom. I have no means of finding out the truth of this case, but when I afterwards asked Abedin what was his version of the case, he gave a very different story. My host, he said, was a dangerous Armenian agitator, and had further attempted to embezzle certain public funds for seditious purposes. It was discovered that he conducted a revolutionary correspondence with several disaffected persons in an amorous and even somewhat immodest cypher. I remember a kiss meant 10*l.*, and breasts those classes from whom the milk of money could be drawn. He was accordingly obliged to refund, imprisoned for nine months, and warned for the future to abstain from writing love letters. I visited two or three other Armenian houses, which all presented the same generally prosperous appearance, and then went to see the Kaïmakam. As I was ushered into his presence without any warning, I was rather taken aback to find in the middle of the reception-room a European iron bed, in the middle of which lay a very handsome man, though prematurely grey. He was dressed in bright-coloured Oriental clothes, and wore a strangely shaped turban with texts from the Koran bound round it. Round him on the bed lay medicine bottles, papers, a rifle, sword, and revolver. Some ten soldiers were squatting about the room. He was suffering from a swelling of the leg, but, whatever his physical ailments may have been, I am convinced he was mad. He had recently been transferred from Chenak, on the Dardanelles, and is a Circassian, whose father emigrated from Russia. It is said he is convinced there is a Christian conspiracy to murder him, and parades the streets at night with his ten or fifteen soldiers in the hope of discovering a secret meeting. After the usual compliments, the conversation turned on cholera and quarantine, and the Kaïmakam addressed a querulous and rambling discourse, more to the soldiers than me, on the folly of taking any precautions against the disease. "It is all a matter of luck whether you live or die," he said. "Everything in this world is a matter of luck." I noticed that, in spite of the verses and amulets on his person, he did not employ any of the usual expressions about the Will of God, &c., and indeed his language was very profane.

When I returned to Angora, Abedin asked me what I could suggest to improve the administration of the country. I replied that I thought the most important thing was to have better officials, and I instanced this Kaïmakam as a person who did not inspire me with confidence. But Abedin merely said that, as he had been appointed directly by the Palace, he must be a good man, and turned the conversation to the merits of Thucydides as a historian.

As I went back from the Kaïmakam's house, we passed the prison in which were three men who had got into trouble for not paying their taxes. Four or five persons were standing outside, and apparently holding unrestrained conversation with them. I looked in through the window, and saw that they had plenty of room, and could not complain of over-crowding. From here we went to the Protestant School for boys up to about 16 years of age, after which some go to the colleges at Marsovan and elsewhere. About twenty boys were sitting on the floor round the room when I entered, and doing sums. I was asked to listen to their recitations, and one began to repeat a

poem which I at first thought was Arabic, but fortunately discovered in time to make appropriate remarks that it was a didactic composition in English. I was told that, besides a thorough knowledge of English, they learnt "a little French." Then we went to the Protestant Church, which was internally exactly like a mosque, except that in the Mihrab there was a regular three-decker pulpit, with purple velvet hangings and a gilt-edged Bible. The men I was told sit on the floor, and the women are put up in the gallery.

I was much impressed by almost the last words the pastor said to me. I expressed some nervousness about brigands, but he replied, "Oh, you need not be afraid. There are none to speak of about here, and the few there are are all Armenians and very good people. You have only got to explain you are a Christian, and they will not touch you. Besides," he added, "here the brigands are very gentle. They never do anything but take money. But near Marsovan they are very cruel, and when they catch a Turk they torture him horribly."

I spent that night at the railway station of Angora. The station-master, like most of the employés on the line, was an Armenian, and a very intelligent man. He spoke to me of the loss of British influence in the last five or six years, and said we had no notion of how great the change was, and how small were now the hopes of the Armenians, or the fear of the Turks, of anything which might come from England. Just as he was becoming interesting, the telegraph began to work in Turkish, and opened with the ominous words, "This is the will of our master." Immediately all the officials who could read Turkish assembled to decypher this document, for, singular as it may seem, the railway telegraphists, being mostly foreigners, do not understand the language of the country, and can only operate in French.

The Imperial Iradé was of portentous length, and wriggled off the instrument in serpentine coils which quite filled the room. It seemed to require a whole Commission to reduce it to ordinary writing, and I went to sleep in a corner amidst a strange jumble of Oriental titles and sanitary regulations, "shadow of God, phenic acid, and five days' quarantine." When, however, I woke next morning, I found that the Iradé concerned me very nearly. On account of the quarantine at Eski Station, not only were all arrivals at Angora obliged to do ten days' quarantine, but with a fine impartiality all departures from Angora were obliged to perform the same period.

Ten days' quarantine in a Turkish lazarette is not an ordeal to be undergone if any means of avoiding it can be discovered, and, therefore, having ascertained that if I drove across country to Guévé, near Ismidt, I should be allowed to proceed to Constantinople without further annoyance, I adopted this route. My exit from Angora was not triumphant, but I was in a hurry, and I trusted a Greek, two things which are fatal in the East. When the vehicle appeared, the horses looked as if they could hardly stand, and the driver proved to be a child of 12 years old. The Greek swore in reply to my remonstrances that an excellent coachman had been sent on a-head with two first-rate horses. I didn't believe him, and certainly if I had been wise I should have invoked the interference of Abedin, who sent me a soldier to escort me, but I wanted to go, and hated the idea of waiting, and therefore crawled out of the town in my ramshackle equipage.

Needless to say, we never met the other horses and coachman, but the carriage went much further than I expected, nearly twenty miles; then it broke down altogether on the top of a lonely mountain. Now, it is not a cheerful thing to be thus stranded on the top of a mountain in Armenia at 9 P.M. in drizzling rain; and as my thoughts wandered disagreeably to the pastor's story of the Christian brigands, I wished regretfully that I could say the Creed in Armenian, or give any evidence other than ocular of my faith. Fortunately, the Turkish soldier came to my assistance, and said that his native village was only a quarter of a-mile away, and there it was sure enough, almost invisible even in daylight, as the grey roofs looked like a part of the mountain into whose side it was built.

After being nearly devoured by the savage watchdogs, I was taken into a room which served both as a guest chamber and a sort of club, where the men of the village meet, smoke, and drink coffee for two or three hours after sundown. There were about twenty villagers squatting on their heels, who received me with grave politeness, and betrayed no surprise at the sudden entrance of a European, though they were evidently not accustomed to foreigners, as they simply did not know what the word English meant. We discussed the old question, which has perplexed many Oriental minds before now, as to whether Franks and Frenchmen are the same people. Despite the progress of Teutonic enterprise in Asia Minor, these village politicians had

never heard the name of German. As for the railway, they opined it had been built by Jews, in which they were not far wrong.

Next morning I with difficulty dragged my wretched carriage and horses to the town of Azash, and appealed to the Kaïmakam, who settled the case with summary justice as he packed my youthful coachman off to Angora, and provided me with superior travelling accommodation. I was thus enabled to reach late that night Boy Bazari, a large and prosperous Turkish town, with fine stone houses. As the Kaïmakam was absent tax collecting, I was received by the Mayor, a portly old gentleman with a mysteriously confidential manner, as if he were always imparting the greatest secrets. He wore a frock-coat in the daytime, but in the evening a strangely embroidered nightgown, in which he received the Notables of the town who came to see me. One of them told me that he was afraid I would not get much dinner, as Hadji Emin (my host) was notoriously the most avaricious of men, and had already been complaining because the Vali had telegraphed to him to receive me. This dismal prophecy, however, fortunately proved untrue, and, though it seem ungrateful, I cannot help thinking that the copiousness of the entertainment was partly explained by the request which concluded it, namely, that I would ask your Excellency to obtain for him the 4th Class of the Medjidie, a modest request, as I believe it is the lowest order one can have. He also obtained for me new horses to go to Guévé. It is characteristic of Oriental transactions that he did not arrange a proper price with the owner, but told him, I believe, that I would pay 10*l.*, while he secretly gave me a paper saying that the price agreed on was 3*l.*, which was about right.

Next day I drove from Boy Bazari to Nally Khan, and I ought to say here how much I was struck with the excellence of the road. My previous experiences in Asia Minor had led me to expect a track over which a carriage could be with difficulty dragged, but on all this journey, with one exception, I found a magnificent "chaussée," which may be compared to the best roads which the Russians have made in the Caucasus. The one exception is a place between Guesterbek and Guenik, where for the space of about four hours' journey the road simply ceases to exist, and you have to find your way as best you may down a watercourse. Nally Khan had been generally mentioned to me as a centre of civilization and a kind of Paris, where every luxury could be obtained. I think this was because, unlike the towns I had gone through, which were entirely Mahommedan, it is mainly Armenian, and my Turkish friends vaguely supposed that I should find there all the strange and unreasonable things that Christians like. At any rate, I was much disappointed to find a small and dirty village, where the inhabitants did not seem at all glad to see me. The Kaïmakam was out on his annual tax-collecting campaign, and I had some difficulty in finding a place to put up. It was suggested I should stay with the priest; but, though I was privately told that he was in the town but did not want to be bothered with me, the answer returned was that he had gone out to the country. Rejecting a proposal of my Turkish escort to enter the priest's house by armed force I went humbly to the Khan, where I was visited by the only representative of authority on the spot, a Captain of zaptiehs, sent from Angora to capture a brigand who was reported to be in the neighbouring mountains, and also to collect horses for the cavalry. He proved a most disreputable individual, as he immediately asked for brandy. Next morning a curious example of Turkish discipline occurred. I had to send back the soldiers who had accompanied me from Nally Khan, and asked the Captain what was the proper bakhshish. He said a medjidie, which I handed him to give them. As soon as he gave it to them they threw it on the ground before him, with highly uncomplimentary expressions. The Captain hastily picked it up, and, while making a long discourse on the folly of the soldiers and their obligation to do their duty without any reward at all, absently transferred the medjidie to his own pocket, from which it never again emerged.

The country beyond Nally Khan is very wild, though it begins here to be a little more fertile, and to present something more than the bare landscape of castellated rocks of greenish-grey stone through which I had been passing. A detailed chronicle of the rest of my journey would not be very interesting, as it would be little but a catalogue of the minor hardships which must be expected on such expeditions. I made, however, a very agreeable acquaintance in the Kaïmakam of Guenik, a charming and cultivated man (though he only spoke Turkish). He is a Roumelian from Plevna, though he has passed most of his career in Asia Minor in the Government of Diarbekir. His Konak, or Palace, was far the finest I saw, but evidently little used, as there was a long hunt for the drawing-room key before we could enter, and when we did, that apartment, though gorgeously decorated, proved as chilly as a cellar, and

gave us both most dreadful colds. In the course of conversation he told me that he was much struck by the extraordinary impetus given by the railway to agriculture, lands many miles distant from the line having been reclaimed and brought under cultivation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 231.

Anglo-Armenian Association to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord, 3, *Plowden Buildings, London, November* 18, 1893.

I AM desired by the Council of the Anglo-Armenian Association to ask the favour of the intervention of Her Majesty's Government in the case of Mgr. Yesnik, Bishop of Arabgir, who is a prisoner in Jerusalem, and has addressed to the Alexandria agent of this Association a request that care should be taken of the students (who are orphans) now in distress owing to the failure of the efforts locally made to secure the release of Bishop Yesnik, their guardian.

One youth is now on his way from Egypt *en route* for New York, and will be provided for during the next two years by a Benevolent Society formed for aiding exiled Armenians; but the Council venture to urge upon your Lordship the desirability of securing the return of Dr. Yesnik to his See of Arabgir, where he is stated to be a very popular and also influential prelate, in no way concerned in revolutionary projects, and solely anxious for the welfare of the clergy and laity under his charge.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD ATKIN, *Hon. Sec.*,
Anglo-Armenian Association.

No. 232.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 308.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 29, 1893.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Anglo-Armenian Association,* asking for the intervention of Her Majesty's Government on behalf of Mgr. Yesnik, Armenian Bishop of Arabgir, who is stated to be a prisoner at Jerusalem.

I have to request you to ascertain from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem whether the circumstances of the Bishop's imprisonment are such as would justify a representation being made to the Porte in his favour.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 233.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 311 B.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1893.

THE Secretary to the Turkish Embassy called at the Foreign Office to-day and stated that the following information in regard to Armenian affairs had reached the Porte from Abedine Pasha, Vali of Angora:—

Six armed Armenians had entered the house of a Greek called Couyoundji Hadji Ousta, at Ak Dagli, in the district of Yuzgat, and had murdered him and wounded his wife. They had been arrested and imprisoned at Yuzgat, but all of their accomplices, who had also been arrested and had confessed to having taken part in the crime, had been rescued from the gendarmes by a band of fifteen Armenians from Sivas, armed and disguised as Georgians. These men had also been arrested, and had made a full confession.

* No. 231.

Three other Armenians named Calasti, Artur, and Séfer, had also been arrested, and were awaiting their trial. The first was a brigand who was hiding in the village of Karalar, disguised as a Georgian and acting as messenger for the Marsovan Insurrectionary Committee; the second was a coachman whose horses were bought with money belonging to the Committee, and the third was an escaped convict.

Morel Bey also said that the Armenian agitators intended to form Committees in London and Paris, which would usurp the functions of the Armenian Patriarchate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 234.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 313.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 2, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 491 of the 26th October, inclosing two Reports from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora on the case of Dikran Gulbenkian, and I approve of your having abstained, under the circumstances, from interceding with the Turkish Government on Gulbenkian's behalf.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 235.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 314.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 2, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 490 of the 26th October, informing me of the representations made by you to the Grand Vizier on behalf of the Armenians, Alexander Gaidzakian and Pastor Mardiros, and I approve of your Excellency's action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 236.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at Foreign Office, December 4.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)
Sir, *Trebizond, October* 31, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 25th instant, referring to the imprisonment of a number of Armenians at Erzinghian in connection with the murder of Turkish gendarmes.

Erzinghian being in the Erzeroum Consular district, it is difficult to get precise information here, and Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum may perhaps be better informed on the subject.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, some thirty-five Armenians of Armdan, in the Caza of Kemakh, are still in prison at Erzinghian under the charge of having murdered one or two zaptiehs, who were engaged in tithe collecting, some eighteen months ago. The number fifty would seem to be an exaggeration.

The precise names of the prisoners are unknown to me. The incident was a case of murder, and was devoid of political significance.

I am endeavouring to obtain more precise details on the subject, and shall not fail to report to your Excellency the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 237.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at Foreign Office, December 4.)

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Angora, November 10, 1893.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 4th instant, I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency yesterday evening that Alexander Gaidzakian had been acquitted of the charges brought against him.

The trial, which I attended, took place yesterday afternoon, and lasted less than an hour. The Tribunal was composed of the same Judge and members who tried Professor Thomayan and his co-accused, and a good deal of public interest was shown in the proceedings, the body of the Court being crowded with persons of all denominations, but principally by Armenians.

The Act of Accusation and the Procureur-Général's opening statement alleged that Gaidzakian had been one of the initiators of the revolutionary movement at Cæsarea in conjunction with Dikran Gulbenkian (under sentence of ten years' imprisonment), and other members of the Cæsarea Secret Committee.

The charge was based upon the declarations of Djevahirdjian Roupen, Aladjadjian Garabet, Deukmedjian Parsekh, Djebidelikian Agop, and Papasian Kévopé, during the proceedings connected with their own recent trial.

A reference to their statements concerning Gaidzakian will be found at the very commencement of the Act of Accusation as published in the *procès-verbal* of the trial of Professor Thomayan and others, and again in the interrogatory of Djevaherdjian Roupen, who alleged that Alexander Gaidzakian helped Dikran Gulbenkian to conceive and instigate the project of a conspiracy amongst the Armenians of Cæsarea, and that Gaidzakian made propositions to him to that effect.

The Court yesterday had no further evidence or witnesses against Gaidzakian, who denied any special intimacy with Gulbenkian, and declared that he was not acquainted with Roupen and his companions. He further denied all complicity in the revolutionary movement, and pleaded his youth at the time of his stay at Cæsarea, three years ago, as a student of the Protestant College there.

The Court was evidently impressed with the sincerity of the prisoner's answers, and, after a short deliberation, decided upon acquitting him; the fact of his name not having figured on the alleged list of members of the Cæsarea Committee was the most important point in his favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 238.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 531.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 16, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from the Vice-Consul at Kparput reporting the arrest and exile of the two sons of Ishak Pasha. As these two persons were notorious for their crimes against the Armenian population, I consider their exile as a favourable symptom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 238.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October 27, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which has been addressed to me by the Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting the arrest and banishment from the Kharput Vilayet to Smyrna of Ismaïl and Sheriff Beys,

the sons of Ishak Pasha, of Tcharsanjak, who have long been notorious for their acts of violence, committed chiefly upon the Armenian inhabitants of that district.

Mr. Boyajian anticipates a salutary effect from this measure, which has been taken under orders from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 238.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Kharput, October 16, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Governor-General of this province, his Excellency Anis Pasha, has lately received an order from Constantinople that Ismaïl and Sheriff Beys, the sons of the notorious Ishak Pasha, of Tcharsanjak, should be banished from that place to Smyrna.

The past history of Ishak Pasha is too well known to need comment. During the last twenty years categorical orders have frequently been sent from the Central Government for his trial and punishment; but in consequence of being protected by persons in higher places, he always, in one way or another, escaped. As he is getting too infirm now by reason of age to do much mischief, his sons, above mentioned, have succeeded him in committing innumerable acts of violence upon the poor inhabitants of the district, but mostly upon the Armenians (whom they consider in every respect to be their slaves); in this they have even surpassed their father. The immediate cause of the present measure being taken by the Government was the following.

It appears that an Armenian girl was affianced to a young Armenian, tenant of a certain Osman Bey, a cousin of the above-named Beys, with whom they were not on good terms. On this account, Ismaïl and his brother sent one night some of their people, and took the said girl by force from her father's house and married her, contrary to her and parents' wishes, to one of their men, also an Armenian. Against this flagrant act of violence complaint was made through the Armenian Patriarchate to the authorities in Constantinople, upon which the Governor-General received orders requesting him to investigate the case, and the Vali reported it as stated above, mentioning also other acts of lawlessness committed by them habitually, and further adding, as I understand, that the presence of these two Beys in this part of the country was highly prejudicial to the establishment of a good Government, consequently the order, under the sanction of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, was sent for their exile.

As soon as the above-mentioned order arrived, the Governor-General caused the arrest of Ismaïl, who was already here; but his brother, on being informed of it, escaped to Erzinghian, hoping to induce the Commander-in-chief, Zeki Pasha, to interfere on his behalf. His Excellency, instead of doing so, arrested him, and he is now on his way, under strong guard, to Kharput. Ismaïl has been already dispatched to his destination, and Sheriff Bey also will follow his brother as soon as he arrives.

I need not state that this measure, though tardy, is a deservedly just one, and undoubtedly it is one of the steps necessary for the introduction into the district of a good and strong Government, which is sadly needed, and it is to be hoped that the lesson will have a salutary effect upon other chiefs of like character in the region.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 239.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 536.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 18, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Cumberbatch, covering a Petition from the five Ghémérek men mentioned in my despatch No. 514 of the 9th November, as well as of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 239.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, November* 14, 1893.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 27th October, and to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a Petition received by me yesterday, and purporting to emanate from the five men therein referred to and still awaiting their trial here on the charge of having attempted to rescue five brigands, subsequently hanged at Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 239.

Petition.

Most honourable English General-Consul, *Angora, October* 24, 1893.

IT is probable that, my Lord, your Greatness has heard about us. We are five persons from different places or towns. It has been more than six months since we are prisoned here. The Government arrested us as way-robbers, though we were sellers of tobacco, and now they say about us that we are too in the Armenian matter. When the people who arrested us killed also one of our comrades. We lost one of us, and also so long a time we are prisoned. They neither judge nor condemn us. We are not rich, and being in such a condition or state that we cannot bear, we come to beseech any aid. If we are criminals let them condemn us, if not, why are we obliged to rest here in prison in the cold of winter without money and something to eat? Please, my Lord, have mercy upon us and kindness to aid us. We are sure that your Greatness will give importance to our cry.

Your humble Servants,
(Signed) DERBAB SARICHOBANIAN.
MUGURDICH DER HOVHANNESSIAN.
HAGOP DJEMDJEMIAN.
AROUT OHALGHARAIAN.
AR'FIN DJAFARIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 239.

Sir Clare Ford to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Constantinople, November* 17, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 11th November, covering a Petition from the five Ghémérek men awaiting trial.

It is not possible for me to interfere in a matter which is *sub judice*, but I have received the assurance of the Grand Vizier that the trial of these men will be proceeded with at once, and I have to instruct you to attend unofficially and to inform me of the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. C. FORD.

No. 240.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 540.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 20, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 304 of the 3rd July, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, transmitting a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, giving details respecting the demonstrations made by the friends of the

Armenians murdered at Kurubash, and correcting inaccuracies which have appeared in the "Daily News."

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 240.

Consul Graves to Sir C. Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October* 26, 1893.

WITH reference to Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch of the 10th June last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a further despatch which has been addressed to me by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, on the subject of the murders of Armenians at Kurubash. In this despatch Mr. Devey gives further details of the demonstration made in Van by the friends of the victims, and points out the inaccuracies contained in a paragraph on this subject which appeared in the issue of the "Daily News" of the 2nd September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 240.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, October* 3, 1893.

THE bodies of the deceased remained in the village, where it was decided to make a processional demonstration of mourning before their interment. A day or two after the crime, therefore, upwards of 100 villagers, including relations of the victims, brought the corpses laid out uncovered upon ox-carts into the town; the girls who were ravished, or who were said to have been ravished—and to this day Armenians repeat that this was indeed the case, in spite of the denials of the Vali and the examining doctor—were in the procession.

In passing through the suburbs an extended route was taken so that the procession might pass down the main road and before the foreign Consulates. Half-an-hour was spent in cries and manifestations of grief before this Consulate at an hour when I was personally absent, and a longer time in front of the Persian Consulate, until the Consul-General made application to the police for the villagers to be moved on. A little distance farther down the road another stop was made in front of the Vali's private residence; his Excellency was, of course, at the Government House in town, 2 miles distant; here the police and gendarmes came into violent collision with the demonstrators, blows were freely given, and it was said that one villager's arm was broken. Eventually the unhappy peasants reached the Government House, where the Vali addressed to them some condolences, promised justice, and made a liberal contribution towards the burial expenses, persuading them to return home quietly.

The following inaccuracies occur in the extract reproduced by the "Daily News":—

1. The projected procession might quite easily have been prevented in its inception had the authorities chosen to do so, but very rightly such a measure, which might have denoted a degree of harshness and want of sympathy, was not taken.

2. The behaviour of the villagers was rather calculated to exasperate the police than *vice versâ*. Naturally public display of emotional grief and lamentation are viewed differently in the East than from our point of view; but the procession, knowing where the Vali was to be found, should have moved on at once, instead of annoying the Governor-General's harem and household with a show of naked lacerated corpses. The police were not to blame for using [? did not use] unnecessary violence.

3. The statement of the Vali's being terrified and ordering the arrest of the demonstrators, and accusing them of being the murderers, is absolutely void of truth.

4. One or two of the villagers who took part in the procession were, I believe, arrested after it for interrogation on certain points, but this was in no way on account of the demonstration. Every day, just after an outrage of such an appalling magnitude,

arrests were being made of any suspicious character or armed individual found anywhere within a large radius of the spot; most were released very shortly, whilst others were detained a little while till an interrogation could be made.

I regret that I have nothing further to add to my letter of the 30th May but that this miserable crime does not seem likely to be ever fully elucidated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 241.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 555.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 29, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the murder of two informers against Armenians, and events in connection therewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 241.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, November* 23, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to communicate the following information, which has reached me from a reliable source.

Two Armenians were arrested some ten days ago at Ak-dagh Maaden, half-way between Yozgat and Sivas, on the charge of having murdered a Catholic Armenian and a Greek, who were strongly suspected of having been "informers" in connection with recent proceedings against other Armenians of that district.

Whilst the alleged murderers were being conveyed to Yozgat, a band of about fifteen Armenians, disguised as Georgians, attacked the guards and rescued the prisoners.

The authorities immediately sent forces of zaptiehs in pursuit from all parts of the vilayet, and succeeded in recapturing the prisoners as well as the members of the rescuing party. They are now imprisoned at Yozgat, where, I am told, their trial will take place, and I should not be surprised if a political colour were given to their action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 242.

Foreign Office to Mr. Stevenson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 7, 1893.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, inclosing copies of two Resolutions passed at a meeting of the Anglo-Armenian Association, the one recommending the appointment of an International Commission to inquire into the cases of Christian political prisoners in Turkish gaols, and the other pressing for the publication of papers on the Armenian question, "care, however, being taken not to print revolutionary manifestoes emanating from Secret Committees or forged by Agents of the Ottoman Government."

I am to inform you, in reply, that his Lordship is not, under present circumstances, prepared to propose to the Powers the appointment of an International Commission, and that, in the event of papers being presented to Parliament, he cannot debar himself from laying anything that may tend to throw light on the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 243.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 14, 1893.

CONSUL at Angora telegraphs that a disturbance occurred at Yuzgat on the 12th instant, the Armenians assembling at their church and firing on the Mussulmans, of whom several were wounded and one killed.

No. 244.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 15, 1893, 7 P.M.

I AM informed, by telegraph, that the Governor-General of Angora as well as the Governor of Yuzgat have been dismissed. The Governor-General of Angora was one of the best of Turkish officials. He is to be replaced, I hear, by the ex-Vali of Sivas, a man of bad reputation.

No. 245.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.—(*Received at Foreign Office, December* 16.)

(No. 41.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November* 10, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of the 22nd September, replying to an inquiry as to the truth of certain statements respecting the detention of Armenians in prison, without cause, in various parts of the Turkish Empire, I have the honour to report that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van informs me that, so far as he knows, there are no prisoners there of whom it can correctly be said that they are detained without cause. There are, however, in all about 145 Armenians imprisoned at Van, all, or nearly all, untried, charged on suspicion with various political offences, and there can be little doubt that many of these are unjustly and vexatiously detained upon frivolous charges.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No 246.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.—(*Received at Foreign Office, December* 16.)

(No. 42.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November* 15, 1893.

WITH reference to Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch to your Excellency No. 1 of the 2nd January, 1893, Inclosure No. 3, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the result of the trial of certain Armenian prisoners at Van accused of participation in an attempt on the life of Bahri Pasha, the Vali of Van, at the village of Everek. Sentence of death has been passed upon four of the prisoners, and several others have been condemned to long terms of imprisonment.

Mr. Devey adds some information as to the Armenian prisoners detained at Van, confirming what I had the honour to report in my preceding despatch to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure in No. 246.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, November* 3, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 37 of last year, I have the honour to inform you that sentences were passed upon a number of Armenian prisoners to-day, among whom those concerned in the Everek attempt at assassination. Four death sentences were passed upon the accused—Gumrikjian (or Maksabedian) Muguerditch; Najar Kivork, the "Kiaya" of Everek; Garabed, the Headman of Setmanis village, implicated for conveyance of arms into this country; and, lastly, the Everek village priest, Avak: four others, including the ex-Headman of Everek village, were convicted, and will undergo six years' imprisonment each. It is scarcely expected, I believe, that His Majesty the Sultan will issue warrants for the capital punishment to be carried out, but in that case the convicted will be condemned to imprisonment for "101 years," *i.e.*, for life.

For aiding and abetting sedition and harbouring outlaws, two others, Setrak and Chichian Melkon Chaoush, were sentenced to five years' and one year's imprisonment.

Long terms of imprisonment of ten, eleven, and twelve years have been passed upon the following fugitives from justice, viz., Zerkoyan, Buzikian, Kenderjian, Azo, Chorlanian Misak, the "usta" (master-craftsman) Panos, and Sabonjian Sahag, absent in banishment at Koniah, six years.

There are about 130 Armenians in prison here on various charges, but I am not aware of any of these having been arrested on mere suspicion, and without knowledge of what crime or misdemeanour they will be charged with. In some cases the petty acts of a seditious character appear to be all but trifling; for instance, the only charge I believe proved against Chichian Melkon Chaoush was of being in possession of prohibited songs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 247.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at Foreign Office, December 16.)

(No. 43.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November* 16, 1893.

WITH reference to Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch to your Excellency No. 17 of the 10th June, and to my despatch No. 37 of the 26th October, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting further on the murder of four Armenians at Kurubash, near Van. Mr. Devey incloses copy of a paragraph which appeared in the "Daily News" of the 13th October, and corrects some of the statements therein contained, though he considers that they scarcely call for refutation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 247.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, November* 6, 1893.

I BEG to inclose herewith a paragraph which is to be found in the "Daily News" of the 13th ultimo, and which scarcely calls for refutation.

As you are aware, Khalil, the Kurdish "Nubaldar," or shepherd-watchman, of Varak Monastery, was recognized by the young women who were assaulted as one of the assassins; there are also one other Kurd, Buro (Ibrahim), and, I am now told, six Armenians (one or two of whom are, I believe, from the village itself, Kurubash) who are awaiting their trial for the murders committed in May last. A certain Vartanis Vartabed, one of the monks of Yedi-Kilisseh (Varak Monastery), is also detained here

in the "Murakh-us-Khaneh" of this town, having been arrested and at first imprisoned several weeks. He had been heard to tell some Armenian peasants not to venture on the hills thereabouts, as "there was danger," a few days before the crime occurred.

It is also stated, but I cannot say that I have much reason for attaching credence to the fact, that Shakir of Norduz Caza, who has already wrought so much harm, and is even now believed to be in this neighbourhood, boasted after the shocking crime committed lately near Shattakh (*vide* my despatch No. 9) that he had taken part in the Kurubash outrage. It tells badly for the Turkish Government that no justice has been meted out to avenge the murder of the Armenian merchants of Shattakh, nor any of their assassins even seized.

As to the paragraph inclosed, tracks of blood were followed to near the Varak Monastery, 1½ miles distant from the spot of the crime, as reported in my despatch No. 3 of the 30th May, but that any sum of money whatever has been demanded from the Monastery on account of the murders is, I feel sure, an atrocious calumny.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 247.

Extract from the "Daily News" of October 13, 1893.

A CORRESPONDENT in Asia Minor, alluding to the report in the "Daily News," some three months ago, of the murder of four Armenians and the ill-treatment of their wives by Kurds on the mountain side, in the immediate vicinity of Van, says:—

"The wives are living witnesses that the perpetrators were Kurds, and the murderers are well known by name in Van; yet the local authorities are now calumniating the Armenians themselves, and are charging the crime on the inmates of the Armenian Monastery of Varak, situated an hour and a-half away from the scene of the murder. Nay, more, the authorities demanded £T. 2,000 from the Monastery on account of these murders, not for the benefit of the murdered men's families, but for the pockets of the officials. This is simply a scheme to ruin the Monastery. The injustice, the bribery, and the cruelty of local officials in certain parts of the country are driving the Armenians mad. If the Sultan could only lay aside his suspicions and fears, and could secure officials who, while they punished real offenders, would honestly endeavour to protect the lives, property, and honour of his non-Mahommedan subjects, he would very soon put an end to Armenian conspiracies."

No. 248.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.—(Received at Foreign Office, December 18.)

(No. 55.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November* 12, 1893.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Longworth's despatch No. 18 of the 28th March, 1893, I have the honour to report that the Arzoglous, father and son, therein mentioned as accused of having seditious papers and letters addressed to them, to be forwarded to Armenians in the Vilayet of Sivas, have finally been acquitted. It would appear that the seditious documents in question were addressed to Arzoglou in his public capacity as agent of several steam-ship Companies, it being also arranged that some third party should call on him, get the documents, and forward them to their destination. The case has attracted a good deal of attention, owing to the prominent position of the accused, and the serious injury done to his business by the protracted nature of the inquiry into a political charge, which now appears to be groundless.

Messrs. Arzoglou were summoned to Trebizond in March last, and were kept here for over six months under police surveillance, though they frequently protested their innocence and demanded an inquiry into the charge preferred against them, pointing out the injury to their business occasioned by their forced absence. At length, in the beginning of October, they were sent to Marsovan, where their case was examined into, and the charge of being implicated in the late Armenian events in the Sivas Vilayet finally dismissed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. FITZMAURICE.

No. 249.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.—(*Received at Foreign Office, December* 16.)

(No. 56.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November* 14, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that some thirty-six Armenians, among them Drs. Karekeen, Jeremia, and Rupen, mentioned in previous correspondence on Armenian affairs at Sivas, have lately been conveyed to Sivas from Amassia as political prisoners, under charges connected with recent political events in the Amassia and Marsovan region.

I would point out that the three doctors in question have made their studies in America, the Turkish officials being apparently at present actuated by a special animus against Armenians who have visited that country. In this connection I may mention the case of Dr. Pashayan, of the Lidjessy "Asia Minor Mining Company," imprisoned at Erzinjan, as also that of a certain Armenian named Artin Kiradjian, who has just been imprisoned at Samsoun, on his arrival from America, with his papers as an American citizen in perfect order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. FITZMAURICE.

No. 250.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.—(*Received at Foreign Office, December* 16.)

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Angora, December* 1, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to communicate the following information in connection with the murder of a Mussulman by an Armenian at Cæsarea.

It appears that a few days ago three Turks of Cæsarea, who had gone out to cut wood just outside the town, got into a quarrel with six Armenians. One of the latter was armed with a revolver, and fired at the Turks, all three of whom he wounded, two slightly, but one so severely that he died a few hours afterwards.

This incident has, I am told, caused great irritation among the Turks of the locality, who allege that the shooting of their co-religionists was part of a general plan of Armenian Secret Societies to kill them whenever occasion permitted.

The fact that of the six Armenians only one possessed a fire-arm, and that no measures were apparently taken to insure their escape, their arrest having being easily effected shortly afterwards, goes to show, in my opinion, that the attack and murder was not premeditated, and that, pending proof to the contrary, the incident must be considered as accidental.

I believe the authorities are doing their best to make the Turkish population of Cæsarea abstain from reprisals, and to allow the Courts to deal with the prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 251.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 556.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 4, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 319 of the 12th July, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves respecting the imprisonment of the Bishop of Moush at Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 251.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir *Erzeroum, November* 9, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th June, in which I reported the arrest and imprisonment of the Armenian Bishop of Moush at Bitlis, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I learn on good authority that the Bishop is still in prison at Bitlis awaiting trial, though more than seven months have elapsed since his arrest.

After his arrival at Bitlis, he petitioned for his removal to Constantinople, in order that the case might be tried at the capital. This having been refused, he further petitioned for a change of venue of the trial from Bitlis to Erzeroum. This request was referred to the Vali of Erzeroum, Haider Pasha, who, true to his policy of avoiding trouble of any kind, and especially in connection with Armenian political affairs, recommended that it should not be granted, and the case still remains to be dealt with by the Bitlis Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 252.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 566.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 6, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the cutting of telegraph wires by alleged Armenian brigands in the district of Yozgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 252.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Angora, December* 2, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that information has been received here by the authorities that several Armenians, formed into bands and calling themselves brigands, are expected to pass into this vilayet from the neighbouring Sandjak of Marsovan.

Also that telegraph wires, including those of the Indian line, had been cut in several places, presumably by Armenians.

As hitherto the latter have generally abstained from brigandage in these parts, the existence of the bands above mentioned, and the cutting of wires, which in no way benefits real brigands, are looked upon with great suspicion, and are connected, by Government officials, with the Armenian Societies abroad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 253.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 226.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 18, 1893, 11·20 P.M.

IN continuance of my telegram No. 222, I have the honour to state that I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting that in the attack by Armenians, which occurred on the 12th instant, ten Mussulmen were wounded, one mortally. The attack appears to have been preconcerted, and a motive may perhaps

be found in the alleged harsh treatment of the villagers of the district by the Turkish police. I have received no further details. Matters, however, appear now to have quieted down.

The Sultan has dispatched a Commission of Inquiry from Constantinople.

No. 254.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 326.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1893.

I HAVE received Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 536 of the 18th ultimo, inclosing copies of correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul at Angora in regard to a Petition addressed to that officer by five Armenians awaiting trial in that town on a charge of having endeavoured to rescue certain brigands who were under arrest, and I approve the reply on the subject which was sent by his Excellency to Mr. Consul Cumberbatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 255.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 227.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 20, 1893, 5·50 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 226, it appears, from further information which has reached me from Angora, that Mussulmans in the first instance made a demonstration against Armenians, the latter being decidedly in the minority, at Yuzgat. The Armenians took refuge in the church, and shots were exchanged. It is stated that one Armenian was killed, while others, both Christians and Moslems, were wounded.

No. 256.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 584.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1893.

WITH reference to Sir C. Ford's despatch No. 528 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves, of Erzeroum, respecting prisoners detained at Erzinghian.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, November* 23, 1893.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report as follows on the subject of the Armoudan prisoners now detained at Erzinghian. The Armenian villages of Upper and Lower Armoudan are situated near the borders of the Sivas Vilayet, in the Erzinghian Sandjak of Erzeroum. The Kurdish inhabitants of the neighbouring Dersim district, always unruly, have for the last two years been in a state of armed rebellion against the Government. There is reason to believe that Armenian agitators, and especially some of the Russian Armenian emissaries who have been at work of late in the surrounding districts, have endeavoured to establish friendly relations with the Dersim Kurds for joint action against the Turkish Government. They count upon their known hostility to the Ottoman rule and faith, for the Kurds of Dersim are Kizilbashis, and as such more favourably disposed even to Christians than to Orthodox Mussulmans. A similar endeavour has, it is said, been made to join hands with the Kurds of the Sasson district of Bitlis, who,

traditionally, descended from renegade Armenians, are believed to be inclined to make common cause with the Armenians as against the Turks. More than a year and a-half ago a Turk named Eumer Pehlivan, living at Armoudan, was murdered, and about fifty Armenian villagers were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the murder, though the person on whom most suspicion fell, an Armenian who had an intrigue with the Turk's wife, succeeded in effecting his escape. It was subsequently asserted by the Turkish authorities that Eumer Pehlivan was employed as a secret agent to keep them informed of suspected seditious practices at Armoudan, and that he had been murdered by the villagers for that reason. On the Armenian side it is maintained that the murder had no political significance, but was taken advantage of by the Kaïmakam of Kourou Tchai to make numerous arrests of innocent persons with a view to extortion.

It is quite probable that the truth lies somewhere between these two stories, and what gives a certain colour to the official version is the fact that last spring the principal Armenian Notable of Armoudan, Hadji Caloust Halkanoghlou, a very wealthy and influential man, took to the mountains with a band of six well-armed companions, and after defying the authorities for some months was at last captured by them in the month of August. Hadji Caloust is said to have been on very friendly terms with the principal Kurdish Chiefs of the Dersim, and also to have been intimate with Damadian, the Armenian political outlaw, whose capture in the neighbourhood of Moush I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 20 of the 28th June, and who is accused of fomenting rebellion in Sasson and other parts of the Bitlis Vilayet. It would appear as if the Turkish authorities suspected the existence of a widely-spread seditious movement in the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Bitlis, and Kharput, having for its object co-operation between Armenian revolutionaries and the rebellious Kurdish tribes of those districts, and the Armenians arrested at Armoudan are, no doubt, suspected of being connected with that movement.

Hadji Caloust and the survivors of his band were lodged in the Erzinghian gaol with the other Armoudan prisoners, none of whom have been as yet brought to trial, though they have undergone several Judicial examinations. I learn that among them is a man named Devletian, of Egin, who is probably the person alluded to in the inclosure to your Excellency's above-mentioned despatch. The prisoners, not having yet been committed for trial, are not entitled to be supplied with food by the Government, but are supposed to live at their own charges, or on the charity of their friends. It was, however, decided by the Erzinghian Medjliss that in this case the poorer prisoners should receive a daily ration of bread, and I am told that the expense of feeding a number of them is borne by Hadji Caloust himself. I have not been able to obtain any confirmation of their alleged starvation, or other ill-treatment, and only one of their number has died in prison so far.

I shall keep your Excellency informed of anything further that I can learn with respect to this case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 257.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 591.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 16, 1893.

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Lordship the news transmitted by Mr. Consul Cumberbatch in regard to the troubles which had occurred at Yuzgat, in the Vilayet of Angora, and to the dismissal of Abedin Pasha, Governor-General at Angora, and of the Mutessarif of Yuzgat. Although Abedin Pasha has been appointed Governor-General of the Archipelago, with his residence at Rhodes, this sudden transfer can only be regarded as a sign of the displeasure of the Sultan.

The riot at Yuzgat has evidently alarmed the Palace considerably, as not only have two superior functionaries been summarily removed, but a Commission of Inquiry has been hastily dispatched to the spot.

The Commission of Inquiry consists of General Hilmi Pasha, member of the Commission of Military Inspection; General Osman Pasha, of the General Staff; Hasni Bey, "Chef de Correspondance" of the Ministry of the Interior; Michalaki Effendi, Procureur-Général of the Court of First Instance at Pera; and Hakki Bey, Member of the Council of Gendarmerie.

No futher news has been received at this Embassy as to the cause or the details of the disturbances, and it may be some few days before Mr. Cumberbatch will be in a position to report fully.

A disquieting feature in the matter is the appointment of Memduh Bey, ex-Vali of Sivas, as Governor-General at Angora. This functionary, ever since his removal from his former post, has been active in circulating warnings as to the very serious nature of the Armenian movement, and there were suspicions that he had been encouraging agitation indirectly among the Armenians with a view of giving colour to his reports. His selection at this moment shows that the Palace is inclined to give credence to his views, and he will, I fear, not lose the opportunity of exhibiting his zeal by exaggerating the situation, and embarking on severe measures of repression. He has also a bad reputation for corruption, and it is most unfortunate that he should replace so able and impartial a Governor as Abedin Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 258.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 593.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 18, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 465 of the 2nd October last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the case of Gaspar and his four companions, stating that a new trial has been ordered, and forwarding a Petition purporting to come from the said prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 258.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, December* 12, 1893.

IN the *procès-verbal* of the important trial of Armenians last summer, as published in the newspapers, the case of five Armenians, tried and condemned by the Court of Yozgat some months before on the charges of brigandage and revolt, was referred to in the documentary evidence as follows:—

"A *procès-verbal*, containing the proceedings of the criminal suit, tried by the Court of First Instance at Yozgat, and submitted to the Court by the Public Ministry, is read.

"The proceedings were taken against Lord Oglou Gaspar, student of the Marsovan College; his companion, Arabadji Tin Oglou Séropé, native of Hadji-Keuy; Ohannes, father of the said Gaspar; Agop and Avédis, the two first being charged with being the authors of, and the three last with being accomplices in, the attack on the Osmandjik mail, near Tchoroum, and the murder of the gendarme Ibrahim, of the guard-house of Tchitch Béli at Tchoroum. It was shown that, in consequence of the avowals of Gaspar, corroborated by other information and evidence, the said Gaspar and Séropé, convicted of having delivered themselves up, in company of two unknown individuals, armed and disguised as Georgians, to acts of brigandage and revolt, and of having attacked the Osmandjik mail, and of having murdered the gendarme Ibrahim, were sentenced in conformity with the Appendix to Article 58 of the Penal Code."

The sentences were Gaspar, Séropé, and Ohannes to death; Agop and Avédis to five years' imprisonment.

The men have now been brought to Angora from Yozgat, in accordance with the decision of the Court of Cassation, and are to have a new trial, owing to some mistake in the procedure in connection with their case.

During the proceedings of the Angora trial, especially in consequence of the evidence of Gulbeak, who, with Toross of Gurun, was hanged here last August, after they had been found guilty of participating in the same attack on the Osmandjik mail,

and in the murder of the gendarme Ibrahim, of the Tchoroum guard-house, a doubt appears to have been raised as to whether two at least of Gaspar's alleged companions in crime had not been unjustly convicted, in lieu of Gulbeak and Toross, by the Court of Yozgat, and it is apparently with a view to revise their sentences that a new trial has been ordered to take place here, and not at Yozgat again, where the members of the Court would, perhaps, be indisposed to admit their error.

Ohannes, Agop, and Avédis are respectively father, uncle, and brother-in-law of Gaspar, which may account for their being arrested on suspicion of complicity in the charges against him and his companion, Séropé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 258.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, December* 13, 1893.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to forward herewith a Petition received to-day, and purporting to come from Lord Oglou Gaspar and his four companions in the prison here.

As to the fact of their having been put into chains when they arrived here, as mentioned in the Petition, I beg to state that, having heard of this at the time, I inquired as to the reason, and was told that the authorities received information that an attempt was to be made to rescue these men, and this precaution was considered necessary, at least temporarily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 258.

Petition.

Most honorable Sir,

WE, who subsigned, are of Hadji-Keuy, a little town near Marsovan. Since fifteen months we are imprisoned, for the murder of a policeman in the mountain of Chorum. For the same matter, in the last case of Armenian matter, one was condemned to death, and hanged too. We were already sinless and guiltless, but condemned, three of us to death, and two to five years' prisoning. Lastly, our case was not accepted by the "Mehkeméi Temyiz." They sent us from Yozgat here without any informance, and now we are bound with double chains. We hear that there are many Turks condemned to death, and to fifteen years' prison, but without chains; perhaps they bound us in chains because we are Armenians, and for the present Armenian matter. We are sure that your Excellence is the only refuge for us. To whom shall we come and pray, first to our Almighty Creator, next to your Excellence. With kind regards and hearty compliments, your very obedient servants,

(Signed) K. (GASPAR) LORDIAN.
HAGOP LORDIAN.
HOOHANNES LORDIAN.
AVÉDIS ACCATHIAN.
SÉROPÉ TEINIAN.

No. 259.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 594.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 18, 1893.

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date No. 226, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting on the recent disturbances at Yozgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Angora, December 14, 1893.

Sir,

YESTERDAY afternoon I had the honour to inform you, by telegraph, that disturbances had occurred at Yozgat the preceding day.

I now beg leave to confirm the news.

The reports that have reached Angora go to show that at about midday on Wednesday, the 12th instant, the bell of the principal Armenian church was rung, and was the signal for the assembling of crowds of Armenians in and about the church. Shots soon afterwards were fired from the vicinity of the church, and from private Armenian houses in the town. About ten Mussulman Turks were wounded, of whom one mortally. The horse of a "Liva" (General of Brigade) was killed; but whether the officer himself was on its back or not is not known. Great alarm was caused among the Mussulmans and Greeks, who closed their shops, and took refuge in their houses.

The Mutessarif (Governor) telegraphed for assistance, and was authorized to augment the local police force with volunteers, pending the arrival of policemen or soldiers from other parts.

The gravity of the situation is not lost sight of by the Governor-General, who has sent the "Procureur-Général" and the Commandant of the Gendarmerie to Yozgat, and has instructed the Governor to do all in his power to prevent a rising of the Mussulmans against the Armenians.

The motive of the daring action of the Armenians, who are as one to ten against their Turkish co-inhabitants, has not transpired; but certain reports that have reached me as to the harsh conduct of the police towards villagers in the Yozgat district whilst they were searching for the authors of the damages to the telegraph wires, referred to in my despatch of the 2nd instant, if true, may not be foreign to the present troubles.

Among other things, the zaptiehs are alleged to have arrested an Armenian village priest, and to have dragged him along in an ignominious manner from village to village, and to have ill-treated the women of one or two villages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 260.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 343.)

Foreign Office, December 31, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 584 of the 15th instant, forwarding a report from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum on certain Armenians from Armoudan imprisoned at Erzingian.

I have to request you to call the attention of the Grand Vizier to the case of these prisoners, many of whom, as appears from Mr. Devletian's letter of the 23rd September last, transmitted to you in my despatch No. 261 of the 12th October, have been detained for more than a year and a-half without trial.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.